

# **MPLS Multi-VRF (VRF-Lite)**

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The MPLS Multi-VRF feature allows you to configure and maintain more than one instance of a routing and forwarding table within the same customer edge (CE) router.

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# **Finding Feature Information**

Your software release may not support all the features documented in this module. For the latest feature information and caveats, see the release notes for your platform and software release. To find information about the features documented in this module, and to see a list of the releases in which each feature is supported, see the Feature Information Table at the end of this document.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to <a href="https://www.cisco.com/go/cfn">www.cisco.com/go/cfn</a>. An account on Cisco.com is not required.

# **Prerequisites for MPLS Multi-VRF**

The network's core and provider edge routers must be configured for MPLS Virtual Private Network (VPN) operation.

# **Restrictions for MPLS Multi-VRF**

You can configure the MPLS Multi-VRF feature only on Layer 3 interfaces.



The MPLS Multi-VRF feature is not supported by Interior Gateway Routing Protocol (IGRP) nor IS-IS.

Label distribution for a given VPN routing and forwarding (VRF) instance on a given router can be handled by either Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) or Label Distribution Protocol (LDP), but not by both protocols at the same time.

Multicast cannot operate on a Layer 3 interface that is configured with the MPLS Multi-VRF feature.

Multicast cannot be configured at the same time on the same layer 3 interface as the MPLS Multi-VRF feature.

### Information About MPLS Multi-VRF

- How the MPLS Multi-VRF Feature Works, page 2
- How Packets Are Forwarded in a Network Using the MPLS Multi-VRF Feature, page 3
- Points to Consider When Configuring the MPLS Multi-VRF Feature, page 4

### **How the MPLS Multi-VRF Feature Works**

The MPLS Multi-VRF feature enables a service provider to support two or more VPNs, where the IP addresses can overlap several VPNs. The MPLS Multi-VRF feature uses input interfaces to distinguish routes for different VPNs and forms virtual packet-forwarding tables by associating one or more Layer 3 interfaces with each VRF. Interfaces in a VRF can be either physical, such as FastEthernet ports, or logical, such as VLAN Switched Virtual Interfaces (SVIs), but a Layer 3 interface cannot belong to more than one VRF at any one time. The Multi-VRF feature allows an operator to support two or more routing domains on a CE router, with each routing domain having its own set of interfaces and its own set of routing and forwarding tables. The MPLS Multi-VRF feature makes it possible to extend the Label Switched Paths (LSPs) to the CE and into each routing domain that the CE supports.

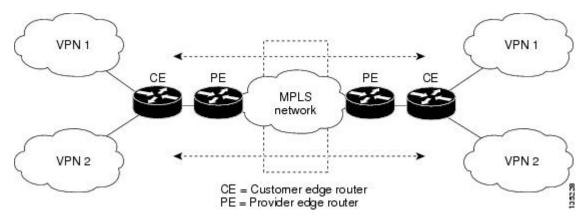
The MPLS Multi-VRF feature works as follows:

- Each CE router advertises its site's local routes to a provider edge (PE) router and learns the remote VPN routes from that PE router.
- PE routers exchange routing information with CE routers by using static routing or a routing protocol such as BGP, RIPv1, or RIPv2.
- PE routers exchange MPLS label information with CE routers through LDP or BGP.
- The PE router needs to maintain VPN routes only for those VPNs to which it is directly attached, eliminating the requirement that the PE maintain all of the service provider's VPN routes. Each PE router maintains a VRF for each of its directly connected sites. Two or more interfaces on a PE router can be associated with a single VRF if all the sites participate in the same VPN. Each VPN is mapped to a specified VRF. After learning local VPN routes from CE routers, the PE router exchanges VPN routing information with other PE routers through internal BGP (iBPG).

With the MPLS Multi-VRF feature, two or more customers can share one CE router, and only one physical link is used between the CE and the PE routers. The shared CE router maintains separate VRF tables for each customer and routes packets for each customer based on that customer's own routing table. The MPLS Multi-VRF feature extends limited PE router functionality to a CE router, giving it the ability, through the maintenance of separate VRF tables, to extend the privacy and security of a VPN to the branch office.

The figure below shows a configuration where each CE router acts as if it were two CE routers. Because the MPLS Multi-VRF feature is a Layer 3 feature, each interface associated with a VRF must be a Layer 3 interface.

Figure 1 Each CE Router Acting as Several Virtual CE Routers



# How Packets Are Forwarded in a Network Using the MPLS Multi-VRF Feature

Following is the packet-forwarding process in an MPLS Multi-VRF CE-enabled network, as illustrated in the figure above :

- When the CE receives a packet from a VPN, it looks up the routing table based on the input interface. When a route is found, the CE imposes the MPLS label it received from the PE for that route and forwards the packet to the PE.
- When the ingress PE receives a packet from the CE, it swaps the incoming label with the corresponding label stack and sends it to the MPLS network.
- When an egress PE receives a packet from the network, it swaps the VPN label with the label it earlier had received for the route from the CE, and forwards it to the CE.
- When a CE receives a packet from an egress PE, it uses the incoming label on the packet to forward the packet to the correct VPN.

To configure Multi-VRF, you create a VRF table and then specify the Layer 3 interface associated with that VRF. Next, you configure the routing protocols within the VPN, and between the CE and the PE. BGP is the preferred routing protocol for distributing VPN routing information across the provider's backbone. For more information, see the How to Configure MPLS Multi-VRF, page 4.

The Multi-VRF network has three major components:

- VPN route target communities: These are lists of all other members of a VPN community. You need to configure VPN route targets for each VPN community member.
- Multiprotocol BGP peering of VPN community PE routers: This propagates VRF reachability
  information to all members of a VPN community. You need to configure BGP peering in all PE
  routers within a VPN community.
- VPN forwarding: This transports all traffic between VPN community members across a VPN service-provider network.

### Points to Consider When Configuring the MPLS Multi-VRF Feature

Consider these points when configuring the MPLS Multi-VRF feature in your network:

- A router with the MPLS Multi-VRF feature is shared by several customers, and each customer has its
  own routing table.
- Because each customer uses a different VRF table, the same IP addresses can be reused. Overlapping IP addresses are allowed in different VPNs.
- The MPLS Multi-VRF feature lets several customers share the same physical link between the PE and the CE routers. Trunk ports with several VLANs separate packets among the customers. Each customer has its own VLAN.
- For the PE router, there is no difference between using the MPLS Multi-VRF feature or using several CE routers.
- The MPLS Multi-VRF feature does not affect the packet switching rate.

# **How to Configure MPLS Multi-VRF**

- Configuring VRFs, page 4
- Configuring BGP as the Routing Protocol, page 7
- Configuring PE-to-CE MPLS Forwarding and Signalling with BGP, page 9
- Configuring a Routing Protocol Other than BGP, page 11
- Configuring PE-to-CE MPLS Forwarding and Signalling with LDP, page 13

## **Configuring VRFs**

To configure VRFs, complete the following procedure. Be sure to configure VRFs on both the PE and the CE routers.

If a VRF has not been configured, the router has the following default configuration:

- No VRFs have been defined.
- No import maps, export maps, or route maps have been defined.
- No VRF maximum routes exist.
- Only the global routing table exists on the interface.



Multicast cannot be configured at the same time on the same Layer 3 interface as the MPLS Multi-VRF feature.

#### **SUMMARY STEPS**

- 1. enable
- 2. configure terminal
- 3. ip routing
- **4. ip vrf** *vrf*-name
- **5. rd** *route-distinguisher*
- **6.** route-target {export | import | both} route-target-ext-community
- 7. import map route-map
- 8. exit
- **9.** interface type slot/subslot/port[.subinterface]
- 10. ip vrf forwarding vrf-name
- 11. end
- 12. show ip vrf

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode.
		Enter your password if prompted.
	Example:	
	Router> enable	
Step 2	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Router# configure terminal	
Step 3	ip routing	Enables IP routing.
	Example:	
	Router(config)# ip routing	
Step 4	ip vrf vrf-name	Names the VRF, and enters VRF configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Router(config)# ip vrf vl	

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 5	rd route-distinguisher	Creates a VRF table by specifying a route distinguisher.
	Example:	Enter either an autonomous system number and an arbitrary number (xxx:y), or an IP address and an arbitrary number (A.B.C.D:y).
	Router(config-vrf)# rd 100:1	
Step 6	route-target {export   import   both} route-target-ext- community	Creates a list of import, export, or import and export route target communities for the specified VRF.
	Example:	Enter either an autonomous system number and an arbitrary number (xxx:y), or an IP address and an arbitrary number (A.B.C.D:y).
	Router(config-vrf)# route-target export 100:1	Note This command works only if BGP is running.
Step 7	import map route-map	(Optional) Associates a route map with the VRF.
	Example:	
	Router(config-vrf)# import map importmap1	
Step 8	exit	Returns to global configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Router(config-vrf)# exit	
Step 9	<pre>interface type slot/subslot/port[.subinterface]</pre>	Specifies the Layer 3 interface to be associated with the VRF and enters interface configuration mode.
	Example:	The interface can be a routed port or an SVI.
	Router(config)# interface fastethernet3/0/0.10	
Step 10	ip vrf forwarding vrf-name	Associates the VRF with the Layer 3 interface.
	Example:	
Cton 11	Router(config-if)# ip vrf forwarding v1	Traits into fine a sufficient and and antique to univillated
Step 11	end	Exits interface configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.
	<pre>Example: Router(config-if)# end</pre>	

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 12	show ip vrf	Displays the settings of the VRFs.
	Example:	
	Router# show ip vrf	

### **Configuring BGP as the Routing Protocol**

Most routing protocols can be used between the CE and the PE routers. However, external BGP (eBGP) is recommended, because:

- o BGP does not require more than one algorithm to communicate with many CE routers.
  - BGP is designed to pass routing information between systems run by different administrations.
  - BGP makes it easy to pass attributes of the routes to the CE router.

When BGP is used as the routing protocol, it can also be used to handle the MPLS label exchange between the PE and CE routers. By contrast, if OSPF, EIGRP, RIP, or static routing is used, LDP must be used to signal labels.

To configure a BGP PE-to-CE routing session, perform the following steps on the CE and on the PE routers.

#### **SUMMARY STEPS**

- 1. enable
- 2. configure terminal
- **3.** router bgp autonomous-system-number
- 4. network ip-address mask network-mask
- 5. redistribute ospf process-id match internal
- 6. network ip-address area area-id
- 7. address-family ipv4 vrf vrf-name
- **8. neighbor** {*ip-address* | *peer-group-name*} **remote-as** *as-number*
- 9. neighbor address activate

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode.
		• Enter your password if prompted.
	Example:	
	Router> enable	

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	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 9	8	Activates the advertisement of the IPv4 address-family neighbors.
	Example:	
	Router(config-router-af)# neighbor 10.0.0.3 activate	

## Configuring PE-to-CE MPLS Forwarding and Signalling with BGP

If BGP is used for routing between the PE and the CE routers, configure BGP to signal the labels on the VRF interfaces of both the CE and the PE routers. You must enable signalling globally at the router configuration level and for each interface:

- At the router-configuration level, to enable MPLS label signalling via BGP, use the neighbor sendlabel command).
- At the interface level, to enable MPLS forwarding on the interface used for the PE-to-CE eBGP session, use the **mpls bgp forwarding** command.

#### **SUMMARY STEPS**

- 1. enable
- 2. configure terminal
- **3.** router bgp autonomous-system-number
- 4. address-family ipv4 vrf vrf-name
- 5. neighbor address send-label
- 6. neighbor address activate
- **7**. end
- 8. configure terminal
- **9. interface** *type slot/subslot/port*[.*subinterface*]
- 10. mpls bgp forwarding

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode.
		Enter your password if prompted.
	Example:	
	Router> enable	

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 2	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Router# configure terminal	
Step 3	router bgp autonomous-system-number	Configures the BGP routing process with the autonomous system number passed to other BGP routers and enters router configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Router(config)# router bgp 100	
Step 4	address-family ipv4 vrf vrf-name	Identifies the name of the VRF instance that will be associated with the next two commands and enters address family configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Router(config-router)# address-family ipv4 vrf v12	
Step 5	neighbor address send-label	Enables the router to use BGP to distribute MPLS labels along with the IPv4 routes to the peer router(s).
	Example:	If a BGP session is running when you issue this command, the command does not take effect until the BGP session is restarted.
	Router(config-router-af)# neighbor 10.0.0.3 remote-as 100	restarted.
Step 6	neighbor address activate	Activates the advertisement of the IPv4 address-family neighbors.
	Example:	
	<pre>Router(config-router-af)# neighbor 10.0.0.3 activate</pre>	
Step 7	end	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.
	Example:	
	Router(config-router-af)# end	
Step 8	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Router# configure terminal	
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	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 9	<pre>interface type slot/subslot/port[.subinterface]</pre>	Enters interface configuration mode for the interface to be used for the BGP session.
	Example:	The interface can be a routed port or an SVI.
	Router(config)# interface fastethernet3/0/0.10	
Step 10	mpls bgp forwarding	Enables MPLS forwarding on the interface.
	Example:	
	Router(config-if)# mpls bgp forwarding	

# **Configuring a Routing Protocol Other than BGP**

You can use RIP, EIGRP, OSPF or with static routing. This configuration uses OSPF, but the process is the same for other protocols.

If you use OSPF as the routing protocol between the PE and the CE routers, issue the **capability vrf-lite** command in router configuration mode. See *OSPF Support for Multi-VRF in CE Routers* for more information.



If OSPF, EIGRP, RIP, or static routing is used, LDP must be used to signal labels.

The MPLS Multi-VRF feature is not supported by IGRP nor IS-IS.

Multicast cannot be configured on the same Layer 3 interface as the MPLS Multi-VRF feature is configured.

>

#### **SUMMARY STEPS**

- 1. enable
- 2. configure terminal
- **3.** router ospf process-id [vrf vpn-name]
- 4. log-adjacency-changes
- 5. redistribute bgp autonomous-system-number subnets
- 6. network ip-address subnet-mask area area-id
- **7.** end
- 8. show ip ospf

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode.
		Enter your password if prompted.
	Example:	
	Router> enable	
Step 2	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Router# configure terminal	
Step 3	router ospf process-id [vrf vpn-name]	Enables OSPF routing, specifies a VRF table, and enters router configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Router(config)# router ospf 100 vrf v1	
Step 4	log-adjacency-changes	(Optional) Logs changes in the adjacency state.
		This is the default state.
	Example:	
	Router(config-router)# log-adjacency-changes	
Step 5	redistribute bgp autonomous-system-number subnets	Sets the router to redistribute information from the BGP network to the OSPF network.
	Example:	
	Router(config-router)# redistribute bgp 800 subnets	
Step 6	network ip-address subnet-mask area area-id	Indicates the network address and mask on which OSPF runs, and the area ID of that network address.
	Example:	
	Router(config-router)# network 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0 area 0	
Step 7	end	Exits router configuration mode and returns to privileged EXEC mode.
	<pre>Example: Router(config-router)# end</pre>	

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 8	show ip ospf	Displays information about the OSPF routing processes.
	Example:	
	Router# show ip ospf	

# Configuring PE-to-CE MPLS Forwarding and Signalling with LDP

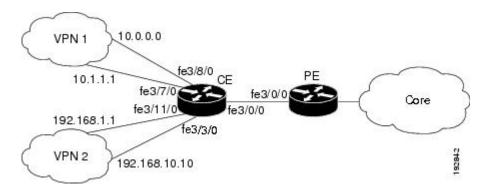
#### **SUMMARY STEPS**

- 1. enable
- 2. configure terminal
- **3.** interface type slot /subslot/port[.subinterface]
- 4. mpls ip

	Command or Action	Purpose
Step 1	enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode.
		Enter your password if prompted.
	Example:	
	Router> enable	
Step 2	configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
	Example:	
	Router# configure terminal	
Step 3	<pre>interface type slot  subslot port[.subinterface]</pre>	Enters interface configuration mode for the interface associated with the VRF. The interface can be a routed port or an SVI.
	Example:	
	Router(config)# interface fastethernet3/0/0.10	
Step 4	mpls ip	Enables MPLS forwarding of IPv4 packets along normally routed paths for this interface.
	Example:	
	Router(config-if)# mpls ip	

# **Configuration Examples for MPLS Multi-VRF**

The figure below is an example of an MPLS Multi-VRF topology.



- Example Configuring MPLS Multi-VRF on the PE Router, page 14
- Example Configuring MPLS Multi-VRF on the CE Router, page 15

## **Example Configuring MPLS Multi-VRF on the PE Router**

#### **Configuring VRFs**

```
configure terminal
ip vrf v1
rd 100:1
route-target export 100:1
exit
ip vrf v2
rd 100:2
route-target export 100:2
route-target export 100:2
route-target import 100:2
exit
```

#### Configuring PE-to-CE Connections Using BGP for Both Routing and Label Exchange

```
router bgp 100
 address-family ipv4 vrf v2 neighbor 10.0.0.8 remote-as 800
  neighbor 10.0.0.8 activate
  neighbor 10.0.0.8 send-label
 address-family ipv4 vrf vl
neighbor 10.0.0.8 remote-as 800
  neighbor 10.0.0.8 activate
  neighbor 10.0.0.8 send-label
configure terminal
 interface fastethernet3/0/0.10
  ip vrf forwarding v1
  ip address 10.0.0.3 255.255.255.0
  mpls bgp forwarding
  exit
 interface fastethernet3/0/0.20
  ip vrf forwarding v2
  ip address 10.0.0.3 255.255.255.0
```

```
mpls bgp forwarding
exit
```

#### Configuring PE-to-CE Connections Using OSPF for Routing and LDP for Label Exchange

```
router ospf 100 vrf v1
network 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0 area 0
exit
router ospf 101 vrf v2
network 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0 area 0
exit
interface fastethernet3/0/0.10
ip vrf forwarding v1
ip address 10.0.0.3 255.255.255.0
mpls ip
exit
interface fastethernet3/0/0.20
ip vrf forwarding v2
ip address 10.0.0.3 255.255.255.0
mpls ip
exit
```

### **Example Configuring MPLS Multi-VRF on the CE Router**

#### **Configuring VRFs**

```
configure terminal
ip routing
ip vrf v11
rd 800:1
route-target export 800:1
route-target import 800:1
exit
ip vrf v12
rd 800:2
route-target export 800:2
route-target import 800:2
route-target import 800:2
exit
```

#### **Configuring CE Router VPN Connections**

```
interface fastethernet3/8/0
ip vrf forwarding vll
ip address 10.0.0.8 255.255.255.0
exit
interface fastethernet3/11/0
ip vrf forwarding v12
ip address 10.0.0.8 255.255.255.0
exit
 router ospf 1 vrf v11
network 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0 area 0
network 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0 area 0
 exit
 router ospf 2 vrf v12
network 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0 area 0
network 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0 area 0
 exit
```



If BGP is used for routing between the PE and CE routers, the BGP-learned routes from the PE router can be redistributed into OSPF using the commands in the following example.

router ospf 1 vrf v11

```
redistribute bgp 800 subnets
exit
router ospf 2 vrf v12
redistribute bgp 800 subnets
exit
```

#### Configuring PE-to-CE Connections Using BGP for Both Routing and Label Exchange

```
router bgp 800
address-family ipv4 vrf v12
neighbor 10.0.0.3 remote-as 100
neighbor 10.0.0.3 activate
neighbor 10.0.0.3 send-label
redistribute ospf 2 match internal
exit
address-family ipv4 vrf vl1
neighbor 10.0.0.3 remote-as 100
neighbor 10.0.0.3 activate
neighbor 10.0.0.3 send-label
redistribute ospf 1 match internal
end
 interface fastethernet3/0/0.10
 ip vrf forwarding vll
 ip address 10.0.0.8 255.255.255.0
 mpls bgp forwarding
 exit
 interface fastethernet3/0/0.20
 ip vrf forwarding v12
 ip address 10.0.0.8 255.255.255.0
 mpls bgp forwarding
 exit
```

#### Configuring PE-to-CE Connections Using OSPF for Routing and LDP for Label Exchange

```
router ospf 1 vrf v11
network 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0 area 0
exit
router ospf 2 vrf v12
network 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0 area 0
exit
interface fastethernet3/0/0.10
ip vrf forwarding v11
ip address 10.0.0.3 255.255.255.0
mpls ip
exit
interface fastethernet3/0/0.20
ip vrf forwarding v12
ip address 10.0.0.3 255.255.255.0
mpls ip
exit
interface fastethernet3/0/0.20
ip vrf forwarding v12
ip address 10.0.0.3 255.255.255.0
mpls ip
exit
```

### **Additional References**

#### **Related Documents**

Related Topic	Document Title	
Cisco IOS commands	Cisco IOS Master Commands List, All Releases	
Description of commands associated with MPLS and MPLS application	Cisco IOS Multiprotocol Label Switching Command Reference	

Related Topic	Document Title
OSPF with Multi-VRF	OSPF Support for Multi-VRF in CE Routers
Standards	
Standard	Title
No new or modified standards are supported by this feature, and support for existing standards has not been modified by this feature.	
MIBs	
MIB	MIBs Link
No new or modified MIBs are supported by this feature, and support for existing MIBs has not been modified by this feature.	To locate and download MIBs for selected platforms, Cisco software releases, and feature sets, use Cisco MIB Locator found at the following URL:
	http://www.cisco.com/go/mibs
RFCs	
RFC	Title
No new or modified RFCs are supported by this feature, and support for existing RFCs has not been modified by this feature.	
Technical Assistance	
Description	Link
The Cisco Support and Documentation website provides online resources to download documentation, software, and tools. Use these resources to install and configure the software and	http://www.cisco.com/cisco/web/support/index.html

# **Feature Information for MPLS Multi-VRF**

password.

to troubleshoot and resolve technical issues with Cisco products and technologies. Access to most tools on the Cisco Support and Documentation website requires a Cisco.com user ID and

The following table provides release information about the feature or features described in this module. This table lists only the software release that introduced support for a given feature in a given software

release train. Unless noted otherwise, subsequent releases of that software release train also support that feature.

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Table 1 Feature Information for MPLS Multi-VRF

Feature Name	Releases	Feature Information
MPLS Multi-VRF	Cisco IOS XE Release 2.1	The MPLS Multi-VRF feature allows you to configure and maintain more than one instance of a routing and forwarding table within the same CE router.

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