Enabling Segment Routing Flexible Algorithm

Table 1: Feature History Table

Feature Name	Release Information	Feature Description
Segment Routing Flexible Algorithm	Release 7.3.1	The Segment Routing architecture associates prefix-SIDs to an algorithm that defines how the path is computed. This feature allows for user-defined algorithms where the IGP computes paths based on a combination of metric type and constraint. An operator can assign custom SR prefix-SIDs to realize forwarding beyond link-cost-based SPF. As a result, this feature provides a traffic-engineered path computed automatically by the IGP to any destination reachable by the IGP. This release supports the following functionality: • TI-LFA (IS-IS/OSPF) • Microloop Avoidance (IS-IS) • Inter-AS Support (IS-IS) • SID Redistribution (IS-IS) • Metric minimization—avoidance, multi-plane, delay (IS-IS/OSPF) • Affinity include (IS-IS/OSPF) • Affinity exclude (IS-IS/OSPF)

Segment Routing Flexible Algorithm allows operators to customize IGP shortest path computation according to their own needs. An operator can assign custom SR prefix-SIDs to realize forwarding beyond link-cost-based SPF. As a result, Flexible Algorithm provides a traffic engineered path automatically computed by the IGP to any destination reachable by the IGP.

The SR architecture associates prefix-SIDs to an algorithm which defines how the path is computed. Flexible Algorithm allows for user-defined algorithms where the IGP computes paths based on a user-defined combination of metric type and constraint.

This document describes the IS-IS and OSPF extensions to support Segment Routing Flexible Algorithm on an MPLS data-plane.

Prerequisites for Flexible Algorithm

Segment routing must be enabled on the router before the Flexible Algorithm functionality is activated.

Building Blocks of Segment Routing Flexible Algorithm

This section describes the building blocks that are required to support the SR Flexible Algorithm functionality in IS-IS and OSPF.

Flexible Algorithm Definition

Many possible constrains may be used to compute a path over a network. Some networks are deployed with multiple planes. A simple form of constrain may be to use a particular plane. A more sophisticated form of constrain can include some extended metric, like delay, as described in [RFC7810]. Even more advanced case could be to restrict the path and avoid links with certain affinities. Combinations of these are also possible. To provide a maximum flexibility, the mapping between the algorithm value and its meaning can be defined by the user. When all the routers in the domain have the common understanding what the particular algorithm value represents, the computation for such algorithm is consistent and the traffic is not subject to looping. Here, since the meaning of the algorithm is not defined by any standard, but is defined by the user, it is called as Flexible Algorithm.

Flexible Algorithm Support Advertisement

An algorithm defines how the best path is computed by IGP. Routers advertise the support for the algorithm as a node capability. Prefix-SIDs are also advertised with an algorithm value and are tightly coupled with the algorithm itself.

An algorithm is a one octet value. Values from 128 to 255 are reserved for user defined values and are used for Flexible Algorithm representation.

Flexible Algorithm Definition Advertisement

To guarantee the loop free forwarding for paths computed for a particular Flexible Algorithm, all routers in the network must share the same definition of the Flexible Algorithm. This is achieved by dedicated router(s) advertising the definition of each Flexible Algorithm. Such advertisement is associated with the priority to make sure that all routers will agree on a single and consistent definition for each Flexible Algorithm.

Definition of Flexible Algorithm includes:

- Metric type
- Affinity constraints

To enable the router to advertise the definition for the particular Flexible Algorithm, **advertise-definition** command is used. At least one router in the area, preferably two for redundancy, must advertise the Flexible Algorithm definition. Without the valid definition being advertised, the Flexible Algorithm will not be functional.

Flexible Algorithm Prefix-SID Advertisement

To be able to forward traffic on a Flexible Algorithm specific path, all routers participating in the Flexible Algorithm will install a MPLS labeled path for the Flexible Algorithm specific SID that is advertised for the prefix. Only prefixes for which the Flexible Algorithm specific Prefix-SID is advertised is subject to Flexible Algorithm specific forwarding.

Calculation of Flexible Algorithm Path

A router may compute path for multiple Flexible Algorithms. A router must be configured to support particular Flexible Algorithm before it can compute any path for such Flexible Algorithm. A router must have a valid definition of the Flexible Algorithm before such Flexible Algorithm is used.

When computing the shortest path tree for particular Flexible Algorithm:

- All nodes that do not advertise support for such Flexible Algorithm will be pruned from the topology.
- If the Flexible Algorithm definition includes affinities that are excluded, then all links for which any of such affinities are advertised will be pruned from the topology.
- Router uses the metric that is part of the Flexible Algorithm definition. If the metric is not advertised for the particular link, such link will be pruned from the topology.

IS-IS supports Loop Free Alternate (LFA) paths, TI-LFA backup paths, and Microloop Avoidance paths for particular Flexible Algorithm. OSPF supports Loop Free Alternate (LFA) and TI-LFA backup paths for particular Flexible Algorithm. These paths are computed using the same constraints as the calculation of the primary paths for such Flexible Algorithm. These paths use Prefix-SIDs advertised specifically for such Flexible Algorithm in order to enforce a backup or microloop avoidance path.

Installation of Forwarding Entries for Flexible Algorithm Paths

Flexible Algorithm path to any prefix must be installed in the forwarding using the Prefix-SID that was advertised for such Flexible Algorithm. If the Prefix-SID for Flexible Algorithm is not known, such Flexible Algorithm path is not installed in forwarding for such prefix..

Only MPLS to MPLS entries are installed for a Flexible Algorithm path. No IP to IP or IP to MPLS entries are installed. These follow the native IGP paths computed based on the default algorithm and regular IGP metrics.

Flexible Algorithm Prefix-SID Redistribution

Previously, prefix redistribution from IS-IS to another IS-IS instance or protocol was limited to SR algorithm 0 (regular SPF) prefix SIDs; SR algorithm 1 (Strict SPF) and SR algorithms 128-255 (Flexible Algorithm) prefix SIDs were not redistributed along with the prefix. The Segment Routing IS-IS Flexible Algorithm Prefix SID Redistribution feature allows redistribution of strict and flexible algorithms prefix SIDs from IS-IS to another IS-IS instance or protocols. This feature is enabled automatically when you configure redistribution of IS-IS Routes with strict or Flexible Algorithm SIDs.

Configuring Flexible Algorithm

Note For information about the commands usage, see the Segment Routing Command Reference for Cisco 8000 Series Routers.

The following ISIS and OSPF configuration sub-mode is used to configure Flexible Algorithm:

flex-algo *algorithm number*

algorithm number —value from 128 to 255

Commands under Flexible Algorithm Configuration Mode

The following commands are used to configure Flexible Algorithm definition under the flex-algo sub-mode:

metric-type delay

Note By default the regular IGP metric is used. If delay metric is enabled, the advertised delay on the link is used as a metric for Flexible Algorithm computation.

affinity {**include-any** | **include-all** | **exclude-any**} *name1, name2, …*

name—name of the affinity map

priority *priority value*

priority value—priority used during the Flexible Algorithm definition election.

The following command is used to enable advertisement of the Flexible Algorithm definition in IS-IS:

advertise-definition

Commands for Affinity Configuration

The following command is used for defining the affinity-map. Affinity-map associates the name with the particular bit positions in the Extended Admin Group bitmask.

```
affinity-map name bit-position bit number
```

- *name*—name of the affinity-map.
- *bit number*—bit position in the Extended Admin Group bitmask.

The following command is used to associate the affinity with an interface:

```
affinity flex-algo name 1, name 2, …
```

name—name of the affinity-map

Command for Prefix-SID Configuration

The following command is used to advertise prefix-SID for default and strict-SPF algorithm:

```
prefix-sid [strict-spf | algorithm algorithm-number]  [index | absolute] sid value
```

- *algorithm-number*—Flexible Algorithm number
- *sid value*—SID value

IS-IS Enhancements: max-metric and data plane updates

With the IOS XR Release 7.8.1, the new optional keyword **anomaly** is introduced to the **interface** submode of **affinity flex-algo**. This keyword option helps to advertise flex-algo affinity on PM anomaly. The following command is used to associate the affinity with an interface:

```
router isis instance interface type interface-path-id affinity flex-algo anomaly name 1,
name 2, …
```

```
router ospf process area area interface type interface-path-id affinity flex-algo anomaly
name 1, name 2, …
```

name—name of the affinity-map

You can configure both normal and anomaly values. For the following example, the **blue** affinity is advertised. However, if a metric is received with the anomaly flag set, it will change to **red**:

```
Router# configure
Router(config)# router isis 1
Router(config-isis)#flex-algo 128
Router(config-isis-flex-algo)# interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0/2
Router(config-isis-flex-algo)# affinity flex-algo blue
Router(config-isis-flex-algo)# affinity flex-algo anomaly red
```

Example: Configuring IS-IS Flexible Algorithm

```
router isis 1
 affinity-map red bit-position 65
 affinity-map blue bit-position 8
 affinity-map green bit-position 201

 flex-algo 128
  advertise-definition
```

```
  affinity exclude-any red
  affinity include-any blue
 !
 flex-algo 129
  affinity exclude-any green
 !
!
address family ipv4 unicast
 segment-routing mpls
!
interface Loopback0
 address-family ipv4 unicast
  prefix-sid algorithm 128 index 100
  prefix-sid algorithm 129 index 101
!
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0/0
 affinity flex-algo red
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0/1
 affinity flex-algo blue red
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0/2
 affinity flex-algo blue
!
```

Example: Configuring OSPF Flexible Algorithm

```
router ospf 1
 flex-algo 130
  priority 200
  affinity exclude-any
   red
   blue
  !
  metric-type delay
 !
 flex-algo 140
  affinity include-all
   green
  !
  affinity include-any
   red
  !
 !

  interface Loopback0
   prefix-sid index 10
   prefix-sid strict-spf index 40
   prefix-sid algorithm 128 absolute 16128
   prefix-sid algorithm 129 index 129
   prefix-sid algorithm 200 index 20
   prefix-sid algorithm 210 index 30
  !
 !

  interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0/0
   flex-algo affinity
    color red
    color blue
   !
  !
```

```
affinity-map
 color red bit-position 10
 color blue bit-position 11
!
```