NAME

ovn-sb - OVN_Southbound database schema

This database holds logical and physical configuration and state for the Open Virtual Network (OVN) system to support virtual network abstraction. For an introduction to OVN, please see **ovn—architecture**(7).

The OVN Southbound database sits at the center of the OVN architecture. It is the one component that speaks both southbound directly to all the hypervisors and gateways, via **ovn-controller/ovn-controller-vtep**, and northbound to the Cloud Management System, via **ovn-northd**:

Database Structure

The OVN Southbound database contains classes of data with different properties, as described in the sections below.

Physical Network (PN) data

PN tables contain information about the chassis nodes in the system. This contains all the information necessary to wire the overlay, such as IP addresses, supported tunnel types, and security keys.

The amount of PN data is small (O(n) in the number of chassis) and it changes infrequently, so it can be replicated to every chassis.

The Chassis table comprises the PN tables.

Logical Network (LN) data

LN tables contain the topology of logical switches and routers, ACLs, firewall rules, and everything needed to describe how packets traverse a logical network, represented as logical datapath flows (see Logical Datapath Flows, below).

LN data may be large (O(n) in the number of logical ports, ACL rules, etc.). Thus, to improve scaling, each chassis should receive only data related to logical networks in which that chassis participates. Past experience shows that in the presence of large logical networks, even finer-grained partitioning of data, e.g. designing logical flows so that only the chassis hosting a logical port needs related flows, pays off scalewise. (This is not necessary initially but it is worth bearing in mind in the design.)

The LN is a slave of the cloud management system running northbound of OVN. That CMS determines the entire OVN logical configuration and therefore the LN's content at any given time is a deterministic function of the CMS's configuration, although that happens indirectly via the **OVN_Northbound** database and **ovn-northd**.

LN data is likely to change more quickly than PN data. This is especially true in a container environment where VMs are created and destroyed (and therefore added to and deleted from logical switches) quickly.

Logical_Flow and **Multicast_Group** contain LN data.

Logical-physical bindings

These tables link logical and physical components. They show the current placement of logical components (such as VMs and VIFs) onto chassis, and map logical entities to the values that represent them in tunnel encapsulations.

These tables change frequently, at least every time a VM powers up or down or migrates, and especially quickly in a container environment. The amount of data per VM (or VIF) is small.

Each chassis is authoritative about the VMs and VIFs that it hosts at any given time and can efficiently flood that state to a central location, so the consistency needs are minimal.

The **Port_Binding** and **Datapath_Binding** tables contain binding data.

MAC bindings

The MAC_Binding table tracks the bindings from IP addresses to Ethernet addresses that are dynamically discovered using ARP (for IPv4) and neighbor discovery (for IPv6). Usually, IP-to-MAC bindings for virtual machines are statically populated into the **Port_Binding** table, so **MAC_Binding** is primarily used to discover bindings on physical networks.

Common Columns

Some tables contain a special column named **external_ids**. This column has the same form and purpose each place that it appears, so we describe it here to save space later.

external_ids: map of string-string pairs

Key-value pairs for use by the software that manages the OVN Southbound database rather than by **ovn-controller/ovn-controller-vtep**. In particular, **ovn-northd** can use key-value pairs in this column to relate entities in the southbound database to higher-level entities (such as entities in the OVN Northbound database). Individual key-value pairs in this column may be documented in some cases to aid in understanding and troubleshooting, but the reader should not mistake such documentation as comprehensive.

TABLE SUMMARY

The following list summarizes the purpose of each of the tables in the **OVN_Southbound** database. Each table is described in more detail on a later page.

Table Purpose

Chassis Physical Network Hypervisor and Gateway Information

Encap Encapsulation Types

Address_Set Address Sets

Logical Flow Logical Network Flows

Multicast_Group

Logical Port Multicast Groups

Datapath_Binding

Physical-Logical Datapath Bindings

Port_Binding Physical-Logical Port Bindings

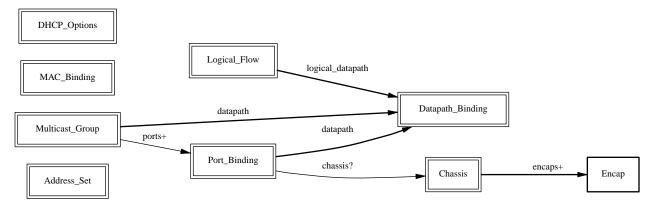
MAC_Binding IP to MAC bindings

DHCP_Options

DHCP Options supported by native OVN DHCP

TABLE RELATIONSHIPS

The following diagram shows the relationship among tables in the database. Each node represents a table. Tables that are part of the "root set" are shown with double borders. Each edge leads from the table that contains it and points to the table that its value represents. Edges are labeled with their column names, followed by a constraint on the number of allowed values: ? for zero or one, * for zero or more, + for one or more. Thick lines represent strong references; thin lines represent weak references.



Chassis TABLE

Each row in this table represents a hypervisor or gateway (a chassis) in the physical network (PN). Each chassis, via **ovn-controller/ovn-controller-vtep**, adds and updates its own row, and keeps a copy of the remaining rows to determine how to reach other hypervisors.

When a chassis shuts down gracefully, it should remove its own row. (This is not critical because resources hosted on the chassis are equally unreachable regardless of whether the row is present.) If a chassis shuts down permanently without removing its row, some kind of manual or automatic cleanup is eventually needed; we can devise a process for that as necessary.

Summary:

name string (must be unique within table)

hostname string

external_ids : ovn-bridge-mappings optional string

Common Columns:

external_ids map of string-string pairs

Encapsulation Configuration:

encaps set of 1 or more **Encaps**

Gateway Configuration:

vtep_logical_switches set of strings

Details:

name: string (must be unique within table)

OVN does not prescribe a particular format for chassis names. ovn-controller populates this column using **external_ids:system-id** in the Open_vSwitch database's **Open_vSwitch** table. ovn-controller-vtep populates this column with **name** in the hardware_vtep database's **Physical Switch** table.

hostname: string

The hostname of the chassis, if applicable. ovn-controller will populate this column with the hostname of the host it is running on. ovn-controller-vtep will leave this column empty.

external_ids : ovn-bridge-mappings: optional string

ovn–controller populates this key with the set of bridge mappings it has been configured to use. Other applications should treat this key as read-only. See **ovn–controller**(8) for more information.

Common Columns:

The overall purpose of these columns is described under **Common Columns** at the beginning of this document.

external_ids: map of string-string pairs

Encapsulation Configuration:

OVN uses encapsulation to transmit logical dataplane packets between chassis.

encaps: set of 1 or more **Encaps**

Points to supported encapsulation configurations to transmit logical dataplane packets to this chassis. Each entry is a **Encap** record that describes the configuration.

Gateway Configuration:

A *gateway* is a chassis that forwards traffic between the OVN-managed part of a logical network and a physical VLAN, extending a tunnel-based logical network into a physical network. Gateways are typically dedicated nodes that do not host VMs and will be controlled by **ovn-controller-vtep**.

vtep_logical_switches: set of strings

Stores all VTEP logical switch names connected by this gateway chassis. The **Port_Binding** table entry with **options:vtep-physical-switch** equal **Chassis name**, and **options:vtep-logical-switch** value in **Chassis vtep_logical_switches**, will be associated with this **Chassis**.

Encap TABLE

The **encaps** column in the **Chassis** table refers to rows in this table to identify how OVN may transmit logical dataplane packets to this chassis. Each chassis, via **ovn-controller**(8) or **ovn-controller-vtep**(8), adds and updates its own rows and keeps a copy of the remaining rows to determine how to reach other chassis.

Summary:

typestring, one of stt, geneve, or vxlanoptionsmap of string-string pairsipstring

Details:

type: string, one of stt, geneve, or vxlan

The encapsulation to use to transmit packets to this chassis. Hypervisors must use either **geneve** or **stt**. Gateways may use **vxlan**, **geneve**, or **stt**.

options: map of string-string pairs

Options for configuring the encapsulation, e.g. IPsec parameters when IPsec support is introduced. No options are currently defined.

ip: string

The IPv4 address of the encapsulation tunnel endpoint.

Address_Set TABLE

See the documentation for the Address_Set table in the OVN_Northbound database for details.

Summary:

name string (must be unique within table)

addresses set of strings

Details:

name: string (must be unique within table)

addresses: set of strings

Logical Flow TABLE

Each row in this table represents one logical flow. **ovn-northd** populates this table with logical flows that implement the L2 and L3 topologies specified in the **OVN_Northbound** database. Each hypervisor, via **ovn-controller**, translates the logical flows into OpenFlow flows specific to its hypervisor and installs them into Open vSwitch.

Logical flows are expressed in an OVN-specific format, described here. A logical datapath flow is much like an OpenFlow flow, except that the flows are written in terms of logical ports and logical datapaths instead of physical ports and physical datapaths. Translation between logical and physical flows helps to ensure isolation between logical datapaths. (The logical flow abstraction also allows the OVN centralized components to do less work, since they do not have to separately compute and push out physical flows to each chassis.)

The default action when no flow matches is to drop packets.

Architectural Logical Life Cycle of a Packet

This following description focuses on the life cycle of a packet through a logical datapath, ignoring physical details of the implementation. Please refer to **Architectural Physical Life Cycle of a Packet** in **ovn–architecture**(7) for the physical information.

The description here is written as if OVN itself executes these steps, but in fact OVN (that is, **ovn–controller**) programs Open vSwitch, via OpenFlow and OVSDB, to execute them on its behalf.

At a high level, OVN passes each packet through the logical datapath's logical ingress pipeline, which may output the packet to one or more logical port or logical multicast groups. For each such logical output port, OVN passes the packet through the datapath's logical egress pipeline, which may either drop the packet or deliver it to the destination. Between the two pipelines, outputs to logical multicast groups are expanded into logical ports, so that the egress pipeline only processes a single logical output port at a time. Between the two pipelines is also where, when necessary, OVN encapsulates a packet in a tunnel (or tunnels) to transmit to remote hypervisors.

In more detail, to start, OVN searches the **Logical_Flow** table for a row with correct **logical_datapath**, a **pipeline** of **ingress**, a **table_id** of 0, and a **match** that is true for the packet. If none is found, OVN drops the packet. If OVN finds more than one, it chooses the match with the highest **priority**. Then OVN executes each of the actions specified in the row's **actions** column, in the order specified. Some actions, such as those to modify packet headers, require no further details. The **next** and **output** actions are special.

The **next** action causes the above process to be repeated recursively, except that OVN searches for **table_id** of 1 instead of 0. Similarly, any **next** action in a row found in that table would cause a further search for a **table_id** of 2, and so on. When recursive processing completes, flow control returns to the action following **next**.

The **output** action also introduces recursion. Its effect depends on the current value of the **outport** field. Suppose **outport** designates a logical port. First, OVN compares **inport** to **outport**; if they are equal, it treats the **output** as a no-op. In the common case, where they are different, the packet enters the egress pipeline. This transition to the egress pipeline discards register data, e.g. **reg0** ... **reg4** and connection tracking state, to achieve uniform behavior regardless of whether the egress pipeline is on a different hypervisor (because registers aren't preserve across tunnel encapsulation).

To execute the egress pipeline, OVN again searches the **Logical_Flow** table for a row with correct **logical_datapath**, a **table_id** of 0, a **match** that is true for the packet, but now looking for a **pipeline** of **egress**. If no matching row is found, the output becomes a no-op. Otherwise, OVN executes the actions for the matching flow (which is chosen from multiple, if necessary, as already described).

In the **egress** pipeline, the **next** action acts as already described, except that it, of course, searches for **egress** flows. The **output** action, however, now directly outputs the packet to the output port (which is now fixed, because **outport** is read-only within the egress pipeline).

The description earlier assumed that **outport** referred to a logical port. If it instead designates a logical multicast group, then the description above still applies, with the addition of fan-out from the logical multicast group to each logical port in the group. For each member of the group, OVN executes the logical

pipeline as described, with the logical output port replaced by the group member.

Pipeline Stages

ovn—northd is responsible for populating the **Logical_Flow** table, so the stages are an implementation detail and subject to change. This section describes the current logical flow table.

The ingress pipeline consists of the following stages:

- Port Security (Table 0): Validates the source address, drops packets with a VLAN tag, and, if configured, verifies that the logical port is allowed to send with the source address.
- L2 Destination Lookup (Table 1): Forwards known unicast addresses to the appropriate
 logical port. Unicast packets to unknown hosts are forwarded to logical ports configured
 with the special unknown mac address. Broadcast, and multicast are flooded to all ports
 in the logical switch.

The egress pipeline consists of the following stages:

- ACL (Table 0): Applies any specified access control lists.
- Port Security (Table 1): If configured, verifies that the logical port is allowed to receive packets with the destination address.

Summary:

logical_datapath	Datapath_Binding
pipeline	string, either ingress or egress
table_id	integer, in range 0 to 15
priority	integer, in range 0 to 65,535
match	string
actions	string
external_ids : stage-name	optional string
Common Columns:	
external ids	map of string-string pairs

Details:

logical_datapath: Datapath_Binding

The logical datapath to which the logical flow belongs.

pipeline: string, either ingress or egress

The primary flows used for deciding on a packet's destination are the **ingress** flows. The **egress** flows implement ACLs. See **Logical Life Cycle of a Packet**, above, for details.

table_id: integer, in range 0 to 15

The stage in the logical pipeline, analogous to an OpenFlow table number.

priority: integer, in range 0 to 65,535

The flow's priority. Flows with numerically higher priority take precedence over those with lower. If two logical datapath flows with the same priority both match, then the one actually applied to the packet is undefined.

match: string

A matching expression. OVN provides a superset of OpenFlow matching capabilities, using a syntax similar to Boolean expressions in a programming language.

The most important components of match expression are *comparisons* between *symbols* and *constants*, e.g. ip4.dst == 192.168.0.1, ip.proto == 6, arp.op == 1, eth.type == 0x800. The logical AND operator && and logical OR operator || can combine comparisons into a larger expression.

Matching expressions also support parentheses for grouping, the logical NOT prefix operator !, and literals 0 and 1 to express "false" or "true," respectively. The latter is useful by itself as a catch-all expression that matches every packet.

Symbols

Type. Symbols have *integer* or *string* type. Integer symbols have a *width* in bits.

Kinds. There are three kinds of symbols:

• *Fields*. A field symbol represents a packet header or metadata field. For example, a field named **vlan.tci** might represent the VLAN TCI field in a packet.

A field symbol can have integer or string type. Integer fields can be nominal or ordinal (see **Level of Measurement**, below).

Subfields. A subfield represents a subset of bits from a larger field. For example, a field vlan.vid might be defined as an alias for vlan.tci[0..11]. Subfields are provided for syntactic convenience, because it is always possible to instead refer to a subset of bits from a field directly.

Only ordinal fields (see **Level of Measurement**, below) may have subfields. Subfields are always ordinal.

Predicates. A predicate is shorthand for a Boolean expression. Predicates may be used much like 1-bit fields. For example, ip4 might expand to eth.type == 0x800. Predicates are provided for syntactic convenience, because it is always possible to instead specify the underlying expression directly.

A predicate whose expansion refers to any nominal field or predicate (see **Level of Measurement**, below) is nominal; other predicates have Boolean level of measurement.

Level of Measurement. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Level_of_measurement for the statistical concept on which this classification is based. There are three levels:

 Ordinal. In statistics, ordinal values can be ordered on a scale. OVN considers a field (or subfield) to be ordinal if its bits can be examined individually. This is true for the Open-Flow fields that OpenFlow or Open vSwitch makes "maskable."

Any use of a nominal field may specify a single bit or a range of bits, e.g. **vlan.tci[13..15]** refers to the PCP field within the VLAN TCI, and **eth.dst[40]** refers to the multicast bit in the Ethernet destination address.

OVN supports all the usual arithmetic relations (==, !=, <, <=, >, and >=) on ordinal fields and their subfields, because OVN can implement these in OpenFlow and Open vSwitch as collections of bitwise tests.

Nominal. In statistics, nominal values cannot be usefully compared except for equality.
This is true of OpenFlow port numbers, Ethernet types, and IP protocols are examples: all
of these are just identifiers assigned arbitrarily with no deeper meaning. In OpenFlow
and Open vSwitch, bits in these fields generally aren't individually addressable.

OVN only supports arithmetic tests for equality on nominal fields, because OpenFlow and Open vSwitch provide no way for a flow to efficiently implement other comparisons on them. (A test for inequality can be sort of built out of two flows with different priorities, but OVN matching expressions always generate flows with a single priority.)

String fields are always nominal.

• Boolean. A nominal field that has only two values, 0 and 1, is somewhat exceptional, since it is easy to support both equality and inequality tests on such a field: either one can be implemented as a test for 0 or 1.

Only predicates (see above) have a Boolean level of measurement.

This isn't a standard level of measurement.

Prerequisites. Any symbol can have prerequisites, which are additional condition implied by the use of the symbol. For example, **icmp4.type** symbol might have prerequisite **icmp4**, which would cause an expression **icmp4.type** == 0 to be interpreted as **icmp4.type** == 0 && **icmp4.**

1 (assuming icmp4 is a predicate defined as suggested under Types above).

Relational operators

All of the standard relational operators ==, !=, <, <=, >, and >= are supported. Nominal fields support only == and !=, and only in a positive sense when outer ! are taken into account, e.g. given string field inport, inport == "eth0" and !(inport != "eth0") are acceptable, but not inport != "eth0".

The implementation of == (or != when it is negated), is more efficient than that of the other relational operators.

Constants

Integer constants may be expressed in decimal, hexadecimal prefixed by 0x, or as dotted-quad IPv4 addresses, IPv6 addresses in their standard forms, or Ethernet addresses as colon-separated hex digits. A constant in any of these forms may be followed by a slash and a second constant (the mask) in the same form, to form a masked constant. IPv4 and IPv6 masks may be given as integers, to express CIDR prefixes.

String constants have the same syntax as quoted strings in JSON (thus, they are Unicode strings).

Some operators support sets of constants written inside curly braces { ... }. Commas between elements of a set, and after the last elements, are optional. With ==, "field == { constant1, constant2, ... }" is syntactic sugar for "field == constant1 || field == constant2 || Similarly, "field != { constant1, constant2, ... }" is equivalent to "field != constant1 && field != constant2 && ...".

You may refer to a set of IPv4, IPv6, or MAC addresses stored in the **Address_Set** table by its **name**. An **Address Set** with a name of **set1** can be referred to as **\$set1**.

Miscellaneous

Comparisons may name the symbol or the constant first, e.g. tcp.src == 80 and 80 == tcp.src are both acceptable.

Tests for a range may be expressed using a syntax like 1024 <= tcp.src <= 49151, which is equivalent to 1024 <= tcp.src && tcp.src <= 49151.

For a one-bit field or predicate, a mention of its name is equivalent to symobl = 1, e.g. vlan.present is equivalent to vlan.present = 1. The same is true for one-bit subfields, e.g. vlan.tci[12]. There is no technical limitation to implementing the same for ordinal fields of all widths, but the implementation is expensive enough that the syntax parser requires writing an explicit comparison against zero to make mistakes less likely, e.g. in tcp.src! = 0 the comparison against 0 is required.

Operator precedence is as shown below, from highest to lowest. There are two exceptions where parentheses are required even though the table would suggest that they are not: && and \parallel require parentheses when used together, and ! requires parentheses when applied to a relational expression. Thus, in (eth.type == 0x800 \parallel eth.type == 0x86dd) && ip.proto == 6 or !(arp.op == 1), the parentheses are mandatory.

```
• ()
• == != < <= > >=
• !
• && ||
```

Comments may be introduced by //, which extends to the next new-line. Comments within a line may be bracketed by /* and */. Multiline comments are not supported.

Symbols

Most of the symbols below have integer type. Only **inport** and **outport** have string type. **inport** names a logical port. Thus, its value is a **logical_port** name from the **Port_Binding** table.

outport may name a logical port, as **inport**, or a logical multicast group defined in the **Multicast_Group** table. For both symbols, only names within the flow's logical datapath may be used.

- reg0...reg4
- inport outport
- eth.src eth.dst eth.type
- vlan.tci vlan.vid vlan.pcp vlan.present
- ip.proto ip.dscp ip.ecn ip.ttl ip.frag
- ip4.src ip4.dst
- ip6.src ip6.dst ip6.label
- arp.op arp.spa arp.tpa arp.sha arp.tha
- tcp.src tcp.dst tcp.flags
- udp.src udp.dst
- sctp.src sctp.dst
- icmp4.type icmp4.code
- icmp6.type icmp6.code
- nd.target nd.sll nd.tll
- ct_mark ct_label
- ct_state, which has the following Boolean subfields:
 - **ct.new**: True for a new flow
 - **ct.est**: True for an established flow
 - ct.rel: True for a related flow
 - **ct.rpl**: True for a reply flow
 - **ct.inv**: True for a connection entry in a bad state

ct_state and its subfields are initialized by the ct_next action, described below.

The following predicates are supported:

- **eth.bcast** expands to **eth.dst** == **ff:ff:ff:ff:ff**
- **eth.mcast** expands to **eth.dst[40]**
- vlan.present expands to vlan.tci[12]
- **ip4** expands to **eth.type** == 0x800
- ip4.mcast expands to ip4.dst[28..31] == 0xe
- ip6 expands to eth.type == 0x86dd
- ip expands to ip4 || ip6
- icmp4 expands to ip4 && ip.proto == 1
- icmp6 expands to ip6 && ip.proto == 58
- icmp expands to icmp4 || icmp6
- ip.is_frag expands to ip.frag[0]
- ip.later_frag expands to ip.frag[1]
- ip.first_frag expands to ip.is_frag && !ip.later_frag
- arp expands to eth.type == 0x806

- nd expands to icmp6.type == {135, 136} && icmp6.code == 0
- tcp expands to ip.proto == 6
- **udp** expands to **ip.proto** == 17
- sctp expands to ip.proto == 132

actions: string

Logical datapath actions, to be executed when the logical flow represented by this row is the highest-priority match.

Actions share lexical syntax with the **match** column. An empty set of actions (or one that contains just white space or comments), or a set of actions that consists of just **drop**;, causes the matched packets to be dropped. Otherwise, the column should contain a sequence of actions, each terminated by a semicolon.

The following actions are defined:

output;

In the ingress pipeline, this action executes the **egress** pipeline as a subroutine. If **out-port** names a logical port, the egress pipeline executes once; if it is a multicast group, the egress pipeline runs once for each logical port in the group.

In the egress pipeline, this action performs the actual output to the **outport** logical port. (In the egress pipeline, **outport** never names a multicast group.)

Output to the input port is implicitly dropped, that is, **output** becomes a no-op if **outport** == **inport**. Occasionally it may be useful to override this behavior, e.g. to send an ARP reply to an ARP request; to do so, use **inport** = ""; to set the logical input port to an empty string (which should not be used as the name of any logical port).

next;

next(table);

Executes another logical datapath table as a subroutine. By default, the table after the current one is executed. Specify *table* to jump to a specific table in the same pipeline.

field = constant;

Sets data or metadata field *field* to constant value *constant*, e.g. **outport** = "vif0"; to set the logical output port. To set only a subset of bits in a field, specify a subfield for *field* or a masked *constant*, e.g. one may use vlan.pcp[2] = 1; or vlan.pcp = 4/4; to set the most sigificant bit of the VLAN PCP.

Assigning to a field with prerequisites implicitly adds those prerequisites to **match**; thus, for example, a flow that sets **tcp.dst** applies only to TCP flows, regardless of whether its **match** mentions any TCP field.

Not all fields are modifiable (e.g. **eth.type** and **ip.proto** are read-only), and not all modifiable fields may be partially modified (e.g. **ip.ttl** must assigned as a whole). The **outport** field is modifiable in the **ingress** pipeline but not in the **egress** pipeline.

field1 = field2;

Sets data or metadata field *field1* to the value of data or metadata field *field2*, e.g. **reg0** = **ip4.src**; copies **ip4.src** into **reg0**. To modify only a subset of a field's bits, specify a subfield for *field1* or *field2* or both, e.g. **vlan.pcp** = **reg0[0..2]**; copies the least-significant bits of **reg0** into the VLAN PCP.

field1 and *field2* must be the same type, either both string or both integer fields. If they are both integer fields, they must have the same width.

If *field1* or *field2* has prerequisites, they are added implicitly to **match**. It is possible to write an assignment with contradictory prerequisites, such as **ip4.src** = **ip6.src[0..31]**;, but the contradiction means that a logical flow with such an assignment will never be matched.

field1 <-> field2;

Similar to field1 = field2; except that the two values are exchanged instead of copied. Both field1 and field2 must modifiable.

ip.ttl--;

Decrements the IPv4 or IPv6 TTL. If this would make the TTL zero or negative, then processing of the packet halts; no further actions are processed. (To properly handle such cases, a higher-priority flow should match on **ip.ttl** == $\{0, 1\}$;.)

Prerequisite: ip

ct_next;

Apply connection tracking to the flow, initializing **ct_state** for matching in later tables. Automatically moves on to the next table, as if followed by **next**.

As a side effect, IP fragments will be reassembled for matching. If a fragmented packet is output, then it will be sent with any overlapping fragments squashed. The connection tracking state is scoped by the logical port, so overlapping addresses may be used. To allow traffic related to the matched flow, execute **ct_commit**.

It is possible to have actions follow **ct_next**, but they will not have access to any of its side-effects and is not generally useful.

ct_commit;

ct_commit(ct_mark=value[/mask]);

ct_commit(ct_label=value[/mask]);

ct_commit(ct_mark=value[/mask], ct_label=value[/mask]);

Commit the flow to the connection tracking entry associated with it by a previous call to **ct_next**. When **ct_mark**=*value*[/mask] and/or **ct_label**=*value*[/mask] are supplied, **ct_mark** and/or **ct_label** will be set to the values indicated by *value*[/mask] on the connection tracking entry. **ct_mark** is a 32-bit field. **ct_label** is technically a 128-bit field, though OVN currently only supports 64-bits and will later be extended to support the full 128-bits.

Note that if you want processing to continue in the next table, you must execute the **next** action after **ct_commit**. You may also leave out **next** which will commit connection tracking state, and then drop the packet. This could be useful for setting **ct_mark** on a connection tracking entry before dropping a packet, for example.

ct_dnat;

ct dnat(IP);

ct_dnat sends the packet through the DNAT zone in connection tracking table to unD-NAT any packet that was DNATed in the opposite direction. The packet is then automatically sent to to the next tables as if followed by **next**; action. The next tables will see the changes in the packet caused by the connection tracker.

ct_dnat(*IP*) sends the packet through the DNAT zone to change the destination IP address of the packet to the one provided inside the parentheses and commits the connection. The packet is then automatically sent to the next tables as if followed by **next**; action. The next tables will see the changes in the packet caused by the connection tracker.

ct_snat;

ct_snat(IP);

ct_snat sends the packet through the SNAT zone to unSNAT any packet that was SNATed in the opposite direction. If the packet needs to be sent to the next tables, then it should be followed by a **next**; action. The next tables will not see the changes in the packet caused by the connection tracker.

ct_snat(*IP*) sends the packet through the SNAT zone to change the source IP address of the packet to the one provided inside the parenthesis and commits the connection. The

packet is then automatically sent to the next tables as if followed by **next**; action. The next tables will see the changes in the packet caused by the connection tracker.

arp { *action*; ... };

Temporarily replaces the IPv4 packet being processed by an ARP packet and executes each nested *action* on the ARP packet. Actions following the *arp* action, if any, apply to the original, unmodified packet.

The ARP packet that this action operates on is initialized based on the IPv4 packet being processed, as follows. These are default values that the nested actions will probably want to change:

- eth.src unchanged
- eth.dst unchanged
- eth.type = 0x0806
- **arp.op** = **1** (ARP request)
- arp.sha copied from eth.src
- arp.spa copied from ip4.src
- arp.tha = 00:00:00:00:00:00
- arp.tpa copied from ip4.dst

The ARP packet has the same VLAN header, if any, as the IP packet it replaces.

Prerequisite: ip4

na { action; ... };

Temporarily replaces the IPv6 packet being processed by an IPv6 neighbor advertisement (NA) packet and executes each nested *action* on the NA packet. Actions following the *na* action, if any, apply to the original, unmodified packet.

The NA packet that this action operates on is initialized based on the IPv6 packet being processed, as follows. These are default values that the nested actions will probably want to change:

- **eth.dst** exchanged with **eth.src**
- eth.type = 0x86dd
- **ip6.dst** copied from **ip6.src**
- **ip6.src** copied from **nd.target**
- **icmp6.type** = **136** (Neighbor Advertisement)
- nd.target unchanged
- nd.sll = 00:00:00:00:00:00
- nd.tll copied from eth.dst

The ND packet has the same VLAN header, if any, as the IPv6 packet it replaces.

Prerequisite: nd

$get_arp(P, A);$

Parameters: logical port string field *P*, 32-bit IP address field *A*.

Looks up *A* in *P*'s ARP table. If an entry is found, stores its Ethernet address in **eth.dst**, otherwise stores **00:00:00:00:00:00** in **eth.dst**.

Example: get_arp(outport, ip4.dst);

$put_arp(P, A, E)$;

Parameters: logical port string field *P*, 32-bit IP address field *A*, 48-bit Ethernet address field *E*.

Adds or updates the entry for IP address *A* in logical port *P*'s ARP table, setting its Ethernet address to *E*.

Example: put_arp(inport, arp.spa, arp.sha);

```
R = \text{put\_dhcp\_opts}(\text{offerip} = IP, D1 = V1, D2 = V2, ..., Dn = Vn);
```

Parameters: one or more DHCP option/value pairs, the first of which must set a value for the offered IP, **offerip**.

Result: stored to a 1-bit subfield *R*.

Valid only in the ingress pipeline.

When this action is applied to a DHCP request packet (DHCPDISCOVER or DHCPRE-QUEST), it changes the packet into a DHCP reply (DHCPOFFER or DHCPACK, respectively), replaces the options by those specified as parameters, and stores 1 in *R*.

When this action is applied to a non-DHCP packet or a DHCP packet that is not DHCPDISCOVER or DHCPREQUEST, it leaves the packet unchanged and stores 0 in *R*.

The contents of the **DHCP_Option** table control the DHCP option names and values that this action supports.

Example: reg0[0] = put_dhcp_opts(offerip = 10.0.0.2, router = 10.0.0.1, netmask = 255.255.255.0, dns_server = {8.8.8.8, 7.7.7.7});

ct lb;

ct_lb(*ip*[:*port*]...);

With one or more arguments, **ct_lb** commits the packet to the connection tracking table and DNATs the packet's destination IP address (and port) to the IP address or addresses (and optional ports) specified in the string. If multiple comma-separated IP addresses are specified, each is given equal weight for picking the DNAT address. Processing automatically moves on to the next table, as if **next**; were specified, and later tables act on the packet as modified by the connection tracker. Connection tracking state is scoped by the logical port, so overlapping addresses may be used.

Without arguments, **ct_lb** sends the packet to the connection tracking table to NAT the packets. If the packet is part of an established connection that was previously committed to the connection tracker via **ct_lb**(...), it will automatically get DNATed to the same IP address as the first packet in that connection.

The following actions will likely be useful later, but they have not been thought out carefully.

icmp4 { action; ... };

Temporarily replaces the IPv4 packet being processed by an ICMPv4 packet and executes each nested *action* on the ICMPv4 packet. Actions following the *icmp4* action, if any, apply to the original, unmodified packet.

The ICMPv4 packet that this action operates on is initialized based on the IPv4 packet being processed, as follows. These are default values that the nested actions will probably want to change. Ethernet and IPv4 fields not listed here are not changed:

- **ip.proto** = 1 (ICMPv4)
- ip.frag = 0 (not a fragment)
- **icmp4.type** = **3** (destination unreachable)
- **icmp4.code** = **1** (host unreachable)

Details TBD.

Prerequisite: ip4

tcp_reset;

This action transforms the current TCP packet according to the following pseudocode:

```
if (tcp.ack) {
        tcp.seq = tcp.ack;
} else {
        tcp.ack = tcp.seq + length(tcp.payload);
        tcp.seq = 0;
}
tcp.flags = RST;
```

Then, the action drops all TCP options and payload data, and updates the TCP checksum.

Details TBD.

Prerequisite: tcp

external_ids : stage-name: optional string

Human-readable name for this flow's stage in the pipeline.

Common Columns:

The overall purpose of these columns is described under **Common Columns** at the beginning of this document.

external_ids: map of string-string pairs

Multicast Group TABLE

The rows in this table define multicast groups of logical ports. Multicast groups allow a single packet transmitted over a tunnel to a hypervisor to be delivered to multiple VMs on that hypervisor, which uses bandwidth more efficiently.

Each row in this table defines a logical multicast group numbered **tunnel_key** within **datapath**, whose logical ports are listed in the **ports** column.

Summary:

datapath Datapath_Binding

tunnel_key integer, in range 32,768 to 65,535

name string

ports set of 1 or more weak reference to **Port Binding**s

Details:

datapath: Datapath_Binding

The logical datapath in which the multicast group resides.

tunnel_key: integer, in range 32,768 to 65,535

The value used to designate this logical egress port in tunnel encapsulations. An index forces the key to be unique within the **datapath**. The unusual range ensures that multicast group IDs do not overlap with logical port IDs.

name: string

The logical multicast group's name. An index forces the name to be unique within the **datapath**. Logical flows in the ingress pipeline may output to the group just as for individual logical ports, by assigning the group's name to **outport** and executing an **output** action.

Multicast group names and logical port names share a single namespace and thus should not overlap (but the database schema cannot enforce this). To try to avoid conflicts, **ovn-northd** uses names that begin with _MC_.

ports: set of 1 or more weak reference to **Port Binding**s

The logical ports included in the multicast group. All of these ports must be in the **datapath** logical datapath (but the database schema cannot enforce this).

Datapath Binding TABLE

Each row in this table identifies physical bindings of a logical datapath. A logical datapath implements a logical pipeline among the ports in the **Port_Binding** table associated with it. In practice, the pipeline in a given logical datapath implements either a logical switch or a logical router.

Summary:

tunnel_key integer, in range 1 to 16,777,215 (must be unique

within table)

OVN_Northbound Relationship:

external_ids: logical-switch optional string, containing an uuid external_ids: logical-router optional string, containing an uuid

Common Columns:

external_ids map of string-string pairs

Details:

tunnel_key: integer, in range 1 to 16,777,215 (must be unique within table)

The tunnel key value to which the logical datapath is bound. The **Tunnel Encapsulation** section in **ovn–architecture**(7) describes how tunnel keys are constructed for each supported encapsulation.

OVN_Northbound Relationship:

Each row in **Datapath_Binding** is associated with some logical datapath. **ovn-northd** uses these keys to track the association of a logical datapath with concepts in the **OVN_Northbound** database.

external_ids: logical-switch: optional string, containing an uuid

For a logical datapath that represents a logical switch, **ovn-northd** stores in this key the UUID of the corresponding **Logical_Switch** row in the **OVN_Northbound** database.

external_ids: logical-router: optional string, containing an uuid

For a logical datapath that represents a logical router, **ovn-northd** stores in this key the UUID of the corresponding **Logical_Router** row in the **OVN_Northbound** database.

Common Columns:

The overall purpose of these columns is described under **Common Columns** at the beginning of this document.

external_ids: map of string-string pairs

Port Binding TABLE

Most rows in this table identify the physical location of a logical port. (The exceptions are logical patch ports, which do not have any physical location.)

For every Logical_Switch_Port record in OVN_Northbound database, ovn-northd creates a record in this table. **ovn-northd** populates and maintains every column except the **chassis** column, which it leaves empty in new records.

ovn-controller/ovn-controller-vtep populates the chassis column for the records that identify the logical ports that are located on its hypervisor/gateway, which ovn-controller/ovn-controller-vtep in turn finds out by monitoring the local hypervisor's Open_vSwitch database, which identifies logical ports via the conventions described in **IntegrationGuide.md**. (The exceptions are for **Port_Binding** records with **type** of gateway, whose locations are identified by ovn-northd via the options:gateway-chassis column in this table. **ovn–controller** is still responsible to populate the **chassis** column.)

When a chassis shuts down gracefully, it should clean up the **chassis** column that it previously had populated. (This is not critical because resources hosted on the chassis are equally unreachable regardless of whether their rows are present.) To handle the case where a VM is shut down abruptly on one chassis, then brought up again on a different one, ovn-controller/ovn-controller-vtep must overwrite the chassis column with new information.

Summary:

```
Core Features:
    datapath
                                                    Datapath_Binding
    logical_port
                                                    string (must be unique within table)
    chassis
                                                    optional weak reference to Chassis
    tunnel_key
                                                    integer, in range 1 to 32,767
    mac
                                                    set of strings
    type
                                                    string
Patch Options:
    options: peer
                                                    optional string
L3 Gateway Options:
    options: peer
                                                    optional string
    options: gateway-chassis
                                                    optional string
Localnet Options:
    options: network_name
                                                    optional string
                                                    optional integer, in range 1 to 4,095
    tag
L2 Gateway Options:
    options : network_name
                                                    optional string
    tag
                                                    optional integer, in range 1 to 4,095
VTEP Options:
    options: vtep-physical-switch
                                                    optional string
    options: vtep-logical-switch
                                                    optional string
VMI (or VIF) Options:
    options: policing_rate
                                                    optional string
    options: policing_burst
                                                    optional string
Nested Containers:
    parent_port
                                                    optional string
    tag
                                                    optional integer, in range 1 to 4,095
```

Details:

Core Features:

datapath: Datapath_Binding

The logical datapath to which the logical port belongs.

logical_port: string (must be unique within table)

A logical port, taken from **name** in the OVN_Northbound database's **Logical_Switch_Port** table. OVN does not prescribe a particular format for the logical port ID.

chassis: optional weak reference to Chassis

The meaning of this column depends on the value of the **type** column. This is the meaning for each **type**

(empty string)

The physical location of the logical port. To successfully identify a chassis, this column must be a **Chassis** record. This is populated by **ovn–controller**.

vtep The physical location of the hardware_vtep gateway. To successfully identify a chassis, this column must be a **Chassis** record. This is populated by **ovn-controller-vtep**.

localnet

Always empty. A localnet port is realized on every chassis that has connectivity to the corresponding physical network.

gateway

The physical location of the L3 gateway. To successfully identify a chassis, this column must be a **Chassis** record. This is populated by **ovn–controller** based on the value of the **options:gateway–chassis** column in this table.

12gateway

The physical location of this L2 gateway. To successfully identify a chassis, this column must be a **Chassis** record. This is populated by an entity external to OVN, either manually or by a CMS.

tunnel_key: integer, in range 1 to 32,767

A number that represents the logical port in the key (e.g. STT key or Geneve TLV) field carried within tunnel protocol packets.

The tunnel ID must be unique within the scope of a logical datapath.

mac: set of strings

The Ethernet address or addresses used as a source address on the logical port, each in the form xx:xx:xx:xx:xx. The string **unknown** is also allowed to indicate that the logical port has an unknown set of (additional) source addresses.

A VM interface would ordinarily have a single Ethernet address. A gateway port might initially only have **unknown**, and then add MAC addresses to the set as it learns new source addresses.

type: string

A type for this logical port. Logical ports can be used to model other types of connectivity into an OVN logical switch. The following types are defined:

(empty string)

VM (or VIF) interface.

patch One of a pair of logical ports that act as if connected by a patch cable. Useful for connecting two logical datapaths, e.g. to connect a logical router to a logical switch or to another logical router.

gateway

One of a pair of logical ports that act as if connected by a patch cable across multiple chassis. Useful for connecting a logical switch with a Gateway router (which is only resident on a particular chassis).

localnet

A connection to a locally accessible network from each **ovn-controller** instance. A logical switch can only have a single **localnet** port attached. This is used to model direct connectivity to an existing network.

12gateway

An L2 connection to a physical network. The chassis this **Port_Binding** is bound to will serve as an L2 gateway to the network named by **options:network_name**.

vtep A port to a logical switch on a VTEP gateway chassis. In order to get this port correctly recognized by the OVN controller, the **options:vtep-physical-switch** and **options:vtep-logical-switch** must also be defined.

Patch Options:

These options apply to logical ports with **type** of **patch**.

options: peer: optional string

The **logical_port** in the **Port_Binding** record for the other side of the patch. The named **logical_port** must specify this **logical_port** in its own **peer** option. That is, the two patch logical ports must have reversed **logical_port** and **peer** values.

L3 Gateway Options:

These options apply to logical ports with **type** of **gateway**.

options: peer: optional string

The **logical_port** in the **Port_Binding** record for the other side of the 'gateway' port. The named **logical_port** must specify this **logical_port** in its own **peer** option. That is, the two 'gateway' logical ports must have reversed **logical_port** and **peer** values.

options: gateway-chassis: optional string

The **chassis** in which the port resides.

Localnet Options:

These options apply to logical ports with **type** of **localnet**.

options: network_name: optional string

Required. **ovn–controller** uses the configuration entry **ovn–bridge–mappings** to determine how to connect to this network. **ovn–bridge–mappings** is a list of network names mapped to a local OVS bridge that provides access to that network. An example of configuring **ovn–bridge–mappings** would be:

\$ ovs-vsctl set open . external-ids:ovn-bridge-mappings=physnet1:br-eth0,physnet2:br-eth1

When a logical switch has a **localnet** port attached, every chassis that may have a local vif attached to that logical switch must have a bridge mapping configured to reach that **localnet**. Traffic that arrives on a **localnet** port is never forwarded over a tunnel to another chassis.

tag: optional integer, in range 1 to 4,095

If set, indicates that the port represents a connection to a specific VLAN on a locally accessible network. The VLAN ID is used to match incoming traffic and is also added to outgoing traffic.

L2 Gateway Options:

These options apply to logical ports with **type** of **l2gateway**.

options: network name: optional string

Required. **ovn–controller** uses the configuration entry **ovn–bridge–mappings** to determine how to connect to this network. **ovn–bridge–mappings** is a list of network names mapped to a local OVS bridge that provides access to that network. An example of configuring **ovn–bridge–mappings** would be:

\$ ovs-vsctl set open . external-ids:ovn-bridge-mappings=physnet1:br-eth0,physnet2:br-eth1

When a logical switch has a **l2gateway** port attached, the chassis that the **l2gateway** port is bound to must have a bridge mapping configured to reach the network identified by **network_name**.

tag: optional integer, in range 1 to 4,095

If set, indicates that the gateway is connected to a specific VLAN on the physical network. The VLAN ID is used to match incoming traffic and is also added to outgoing traffic.

VTEP Options:

These options apply to logical ports with type of vtep.

options: vtep-physical-switch: optional string

Required. The name of the VTEP gateway.

options: vtep-logical-switch: optional string

Required. A logical switch name connected by the VTEP gateway. Must be set when **type** is **vtep**.

VMI (or VIF) Options:

These options apply to logical ports with **type** having (empty string)

options: policing rate: optional string

If set, indicates the maximum rate for data sent from this interface, in kbps. Data exceeding this rate is dropped.

options : policing_burst: optional string

If set, indicates the maximum burst size for data sent from this interface, in kb.

Nested Containers:

These columns support containers nested within a VM. Specifically, they are used when **type** is empty and **logical_port** identifies the interface of a container spawned inside a VM. They are empty for containers or VMs that run directly on a hypervisor.

parent_port: optional string

This is taken from parent_name in the OVN_Northbound database's Logical_Switch_Port table.

tag: optional integer, in range 1 to 4,095

Identifies the VLAN tag in the network traffic associated with that container's network interface.

This column is used for a different purpose when **type** is **localnet** (see **Localnet Options**, above) or **l2gateway** (see **L2 Gateway Options**, above).

MAC Binding TABLE

Each row in this table specifies a binding from an IP address to an Ethernet address that has been discovered through ARP (for IPv4) or neighbor discovery (for IPv6). This table is primarily used to discover bindings on physical networks, because IP-to-MAC bindings for virtual machines are usually populated statically into the **Port_Binding** table.

This table expresses a functional relationship: MAC_Binding(logical_port, ip) = mac.

In outline, the lifetime of a logical router's MAC binding looks like this:

- On hypervisor 1, a logical router determines that a packet should be forwarded to IP address A
 on one of its router ports. It uses its logical flow table to determine that A lacks a static IP-toMAC binding and the get_arp action to determine that it lacks a dynamic IP-to-MAC binding.
- 2. Using an OVN logical **arp** action, the logical router generates and sends a broadcast ARP request to the router port. It drops the IP packet.
- 3. The logical switch attached to the router port delivers the ARP request to all of its ports. (It might make sense to deliver it only to ports that have no static IP-to-MAC bindings, but this could also be surprising behavior.)
- 4. A host or VM on hypervisor 2 (which might be the same as hypervisor 1) attached to the logical switch owns the IP address in question. It composes an ARP reply and unicasts it to the logical router port's Ethernet address.
- 5. The logical switch delivers the ARP reply to the logical router port.
- 6. The logical router flow table executes a **put_arp** action. To record the IP-to-MAC binding, **ovn-controller** adds a row to the **MAC_Binding** table.
- 7. On hypervisor 1, **ovn–controller** receives the updated **MAC_Binding** table from the OVN southbound database. The next packet destined to *A* through the logical router is sent directly to the bound Ethernet address.

Summary:

logical_portstringipstringmacstring

Details:

logical_port: string

The logical port on which the binding was discovered.

ip: string

The bound IP address.

mac: string

The Ethernet address to which the IP is bound.

DHCP Options TABLE

Each row in this table stores the DHCP Options supported by native OVN DHCP. **ovn—northd** populates this table with the supported DHCP options. **ovn—controller** looks up this table to get the DHCP codes of the DHCP options defined in the "put_dhcp_opts" action. Please refer to the RFC 2132 "https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc2132" for the possible list of DHCP options that can be defined here.

Summary:

name string

code integer, in range 0 to 254

type string, one of static_routes, uint8, uint16, bool,

ipv4, str, or uint32

Details:

name: string

Name of the DHCP option.

Example. name="router"

code: integer, in range 0 to 254

DHCP option code for the DHCP option as defined in the RFC 2132.

Example. code=3

type: string, one of static_routes, uint8, uint16, bool, ipv4, str, or uint32

Data type of the DHCP option code.

value: bool

This indicates that the value of the DHCP option is a bool.

Example. "name=ip_forward_enable", "code=19", "type=bool".

put_dhcp_opts(..., ip_forward_enable = 1,...)

value: uint8

This indicates that the value of the DHCP option is an unsigned int8 (8 bits)

Example. "name=default_ttl", "code=23", "type=uint8".

put_dhcp_opts(..., default_ttl = 50,...)

value: uint16

This indicates that the value of the DHCP option is an unsigned int16 (16 bits).

Example. "name=mtu", "code=26", "type=uint16".

put_dhcp_opts(..., mtu = 1450,...)

value: uint32

This indicates that the value of the DHCP option is an unsigned int32 (32 bits).

Example. "name=lease_time", "code=51", "type=uint32".

put_dhcp_opts(..., lease_time = 86400,...)

value: ipv4

This indicates that the value of the DHCP option is an IPv4 address or addresses.

Example. "name=router", "code=3", "type=ipv4".

put_dhcp_opts(..., router = 10.0.0.1,...)

Example. "name=dns_server", "code=6", "type=ipv4".

put_dhcp_opts(..., dns_server = {8.8.8.8 7.7.7.7},...)

value: static_routes

This indicates that the value of the DHCP option contains a pair of IPv4 route and next hop addresses.

```
\label{lem:condition} Example. "name=classless\_static\_route", "code=121", "type=static\_routes". \\ put\_dhcp\_opts(..., classless\_static\_route = \{30.0.0.0/24, 10.0.0.4, 0.0.0/0, 10.0.0.1\}...)
```

value: str

This indicates that the value of the DHCP option is a string.

Example. "name=host_name", "code=12", "type=str".