



- There are typically multiple IP subnets on a typical data communication network. Layer 3 devices are required to exchange data between these IP subnets. These devices have the routing capability and can forward data across subnets.
- Routing is the basic element of data communication networks. It is the process of selecting paths on a network along which packets are sent from a source to a destination.
- This course introduces the basic concepts of routing.

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- On completion of this course, you will be able to:
 - Understand the basic principles of routers.
 - Know how routers select optimal routes.
 - Understand the contents of routing tables.
 - Master advanced routing features.

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1. Overview of IP Routing

- Basic Concepts of Routing
- Generation of Routing Entries
- Optimal Route Selection
- Route-based Forwarding
- 2. Static Routing

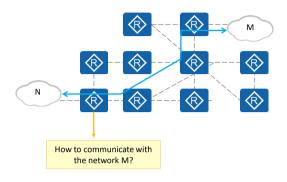
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- 3. Dynamic Routing
- 4. Advanced Routing Features





Background: Inter-Subnet Communication



- An IP address uniquely identifies a node on a network. Each IP address belongs to a unique subnet, and each subnet may belong to a different area of the network.
- To implement IP addressing, subnets in different areas need to communicate with each other.

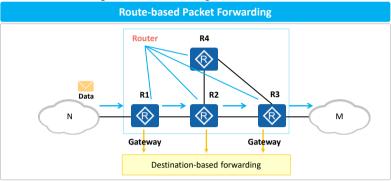
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- A unique network node can be found based on a specific IP address. Each IP address belongs to a
 unique subnet. These subnets may be distributed around the world and constitute a global
 network.
- To implement communication between different subnets, network devices need to forward IP packets from different subnets to their destination IP subnets.



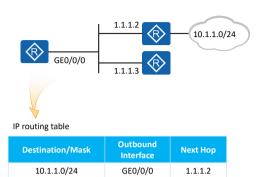
- Routes are the path information used to guide packet forwarding.
- A routing device is a network device that forwards packets to a destination subnet based on routes. The most common routing
 device is a router.
- A routing device maintains an IP routing table that stores routing information.





- A gateway and an intermediate node (a router) select a proper path according to the destination address of a received IP packet, and forward the packet to the next router. The last-hop router on the path performs Layer 2 addressing and forwards the packet to the destination host. This process is called route-based forwarding.
- The intermediate node selects the best path from its IP routing table to forward packets.
- A routing entry contains a specific outbound interface and next hop, which are used to forward IP
 packets to the corresponding next-hop device.



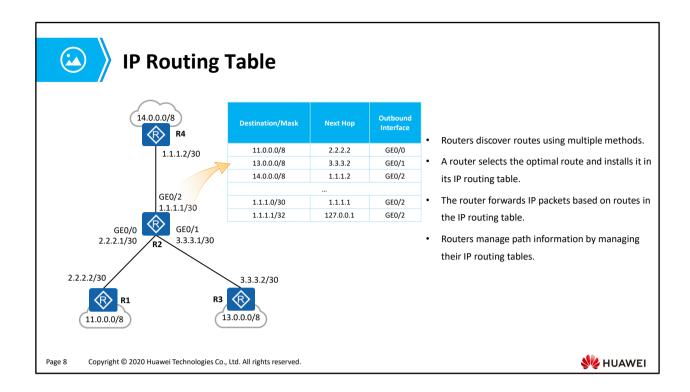


- A route contains the following information:
 - Destination: identifies a destination subnet.
 - Mask: identifies a subnet together with a destination IP address.
 - Outbound interface: indicates the interface through which a data packet is sent out of the local router.
 - Next hop: indicates the next-hop address used by the router to forward the data packet to the destination subnet.
- The information identifies the destination subnet and specifies the path for forwarding data packets.

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- Based on the information contained in a route, a router can forward IP packets to the destination along the required path.
- The destination address and mask identify the destination address of an IP packet. After an IP
 packet matches a specific route, the router determines the forwarding path according to the
 outbound interface and next hop of the route.
- The next-hop device for forwarding the IP packet cannot be determined based only on the outbound interface. Therefore, the next-hop device address must be specified.



- A router forwards packets based on its IP routing table.
- An IP routing table contains many routing entries.
- An IP routing table contains only optimal routes but not all routes.
- A router manages routing information by managing the routing entries in its IP routing table.



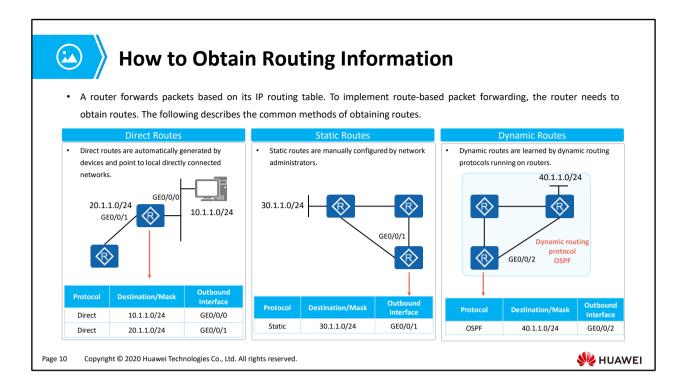
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- 2. Static Routing

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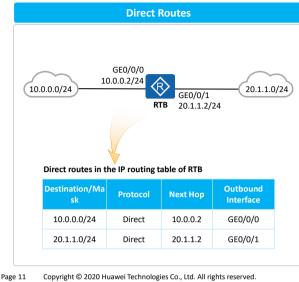
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- Direct routes are the routes destined for the subnets to which directly connected interfaces belong. They are automatically generated by devices.
- Static routes are manually configured by network administrators.
- Dynamic routes are learned by dynamic routing protocols, such as OSPF, IS-IS, and BGP.



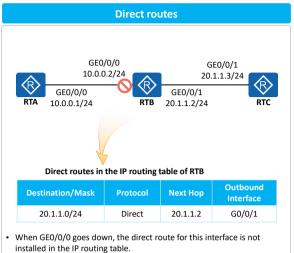


- A direct route is automatically generated by a device and points to a local directly-connected network.
- When a router is the last hop router, IP packets to be forwarded will match a direct route and the router will directly forward the IP packet to the destination host.
- When a direct route is used for packet forwarding, the destination IP address of a packet to be forwarded and the IP address of the router's outbound interface are in the same subnet.



- When a packet matches a direct route, a router checks its ARP entries and forwards the packet to
 the destination address based on the ARP entry for this destination address. In this case, the
 router is the last hop router.
- The next-hop address of a direct route is not an interface address of another device. The
 destination subnet of the direct route is the subnet to which the local outbound interface
 belongs. The local outbound interface is the last hop interface and does not need to forward the
 packet to any other next hop. Therefore, the next-hop address of a direct route in the IP routing
 table is the address of the local outbound interface.
- When a router forwards packets using a direct route, it does not deliver packets to the next hop.
 Instead, the router checks its ARP entries and forwards packets to the destination IP address based on the required ARP entry.





 Not all the direct routes generated for interfaces are installed in the IP routing table. Only the direct routes of which the physical status and protocol status of interfaces are up are installed in the IP routing table.





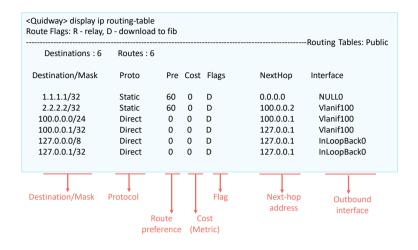
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Examining the IP Routing Table







Fields in the IP Routing Table

- Destination/Mask: indicates the destination network address and mask of a specific route. The subnet address of a destination host or router is obtained through the AND operation on the destination address and mask. For example, if the destination address is 1.1.1.1 and the mask is 255.255.255.0, the IP address of the subnet to which the host or router belongs is 1.1.1.0.
- Proto (Protocol): indicates the protocol type of the route, that is, the protocol through which a router learns the route.
- Pre (Preference): indicates the routing protocol preference of the route. There may be multiple routes to the same destination,
 which have different next hops and outbound interfaces. These routes may be discovered by different routing protocols or be
 manually configured. A router selects the route with the highest preference (with the lowest preference value) as the optimal route.
- Cost: indicates the cost of the route. When multiple routes to the same destination have the same preference, the route with the lowest cost is selected as the optimal route.
- NextHop: indicates the local router's next-hop address of the route to the destination network. This field specifies the next-hop
 device to which packets are forwarded.
- Interface: indicates the outbound interface of the route. This field specifies the local interface through which the local router forwards packets.

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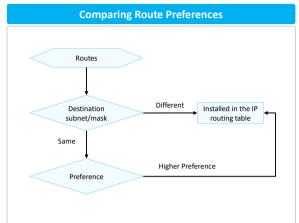
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 The Preference field is used to compare routes from different routing protocols, while the Cost field is used to compare routes from the same routing protocol. In the industry, the cost is also known as the metric.



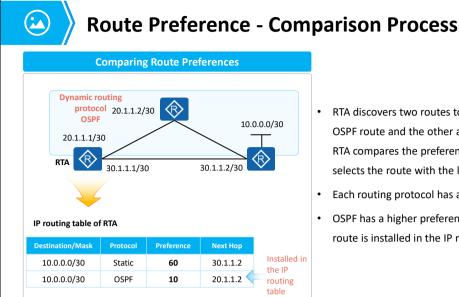
Route Preference - Basic Concepts



- When a router obtains routes to the same destination subnet from different routing protocols (these routes have the same destination network address and mask), the router compares the preferences of these routes and prefers the route with the lowest preference value.
- A lower preference value indicates a higher preference.
- The route with the highest preference is installed in the IP routing table.

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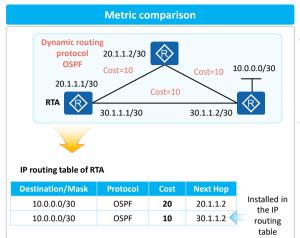
- RTA discovers two routes to 10.0.0.0/30, one is an OSPF route and the other a static route. In this case, RTA compares the preferences of the two routes and selects the route with the lowest preference value.
- Each routing protocol has a unique preference.
- OSPF has a higher preference. Therefore, the OSPF route is installed in the IP routing table.



RTA learns two routes to the same destination, one is a static route and the other an OSPF route. It then compares the preferences of the two routes, and prefers the OSPF route because this route has a higher preference. RTA installs the OSPF route in the IP routing table.



Metric - Comparison Process



- RTA learns two routes with the same destination address (10.0.0.0/30) and preference through OSPF.
 In this case, RTA needs to compare the metrics of the two routes.
- The two routes have different metrics. The OSPF route with the next hop being 30.1.1.2 has a lower metric (with the cost 10), so it is installed in the IP routing table.





Route Preference - Common Default Values

• The following table lists the default preference values of common route types:

Protocol	Route Type	Default Preference
Direct	Direct route	0
Static	Static route	60
Dynamic routing protocol	OSPF internal route	10
	OSPF external route	150

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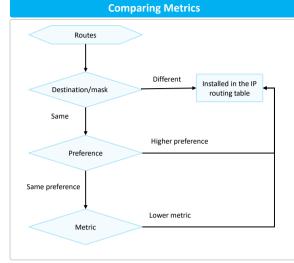
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• The table lists the preferences of some common routing protocols. Actually, there are multiple types of dynamic routes. We will learn these routes in subsequent courses.



Metric - Basic Concepts



- When a router discovers multiple routes to the same destination network through the same routing protocol, the router selects the optimal route based on the metrics of these routes if these routes have the same preference.
- The metric of a route indicates the cost of reaching the destination address of the route.
- Common metrics include the hop count, bandwidth, delay, cost, load, and reliability.
- The route with the lowest metric is installed in the IP routing table.
- The metric is also known as the cost.





1. Overview of IP Routing

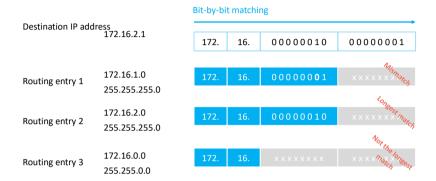
- Basic Concepts of Routing
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Longest Matching

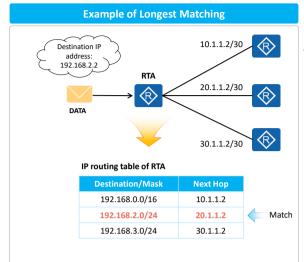
• When a router receives an IP packet, it compares the destination IP address of the packet with all routing entries in the local routing table bit by bit until the longest matching entry is found. This is the longest matching mechanism.







Example of Longest Matching (1)



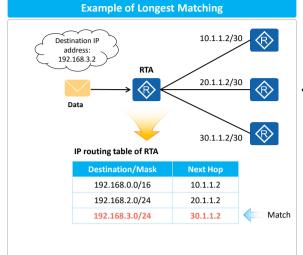
 There are two routes to 192.168.2.2 in the IP routing table of RTA, one has the 16-bit mask and the other has the 24-bit mask. According to the longest matching rule, the route with the 24-bit mask is preferred to guide the forwarding of packets destined for 192.168.2.2.





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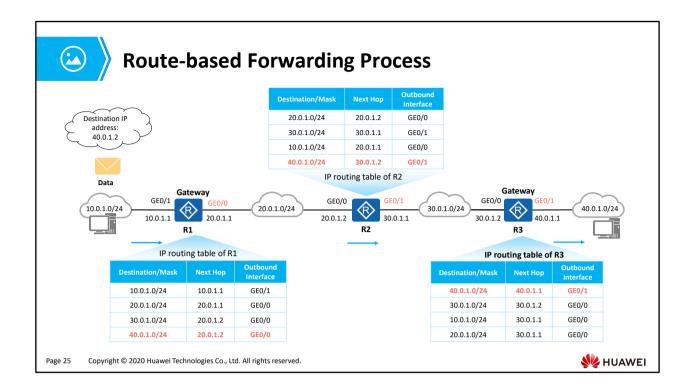
Example of Longest Matching (2)



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According to the longest matching rule, only the route to 192.168.3.0/24 in the IP routing table matches the destination IP address 192.168.3.2. Therefore, this route is used to forward packets destined for 192.168.3.2.

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• The IP packets from 10.0.1.0/24 need to reach 40.0.1.0/24. After receiving these packets, the gateway R1 searches its IP routing table for the next hop and outbound interface and forwards the packets to R2. After the packets reach R2, R2 forwards the packets to R3 by searching its IP routing table. Upon receipt of the packets, R3 searches its IP routing table, finding that the destination IP address of the packets belongs to the subnet where a local interface resides. Therefore, R3 directly forwards the packets to the destination subnet 40.0.1.0/24.



Summary of the IP Routing Table

- When a router obtains routes to the same destination subnet with the same mask from different routing protocols, the router prefers the route with the lowest preference value of these routing protocols. If these routes are learned from the same routing protocol, the router prefers the route with the lowest cost. In summary, only the optimal route is installed in the IP routing table.
- When a router receives a packet, it searches its IP routing table for the outbound interface and next hop based on
 the destination IP address of the packet. If it finds a matching routing entry, it forwards the packet according to the
 outbound interface and next hop specified by this entry. Otherwise, it discards the packet.
- Packets are forwarded hop by hop. Therefore, all the routers along the path from the source to the destination must have routes destined for the destination. Otherwise, packet loss occurs.
- · Data communication is bidirectional. Therefore, both forward and backward routes must be available.

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Application Scenarios of Static Routes



- Static routes are manually configured by network administrators, have low system requirements, and apply to simple, stable, and small networks.
- The disadvantage of static routes is that they cannot automatically adapt to network topology changes and so require manual intervention.
- RTA needs to forward the packets with the destination address 20.1.1.0/24. However, the IP routing table of RTA has only one direct route, which does not match 20.1.1.0/24. In this case, a static route needs to be manually configured so that the packets sent from RTA to 20.1.1.0/24 can be forwarded to the next hop 10.0.0.2.





Static Route Configuration

Specify a next-hop IP address for a static route.

[Huawei] **ip route-static** *ip-address* { *mask* | *mask-length* } *nexthop-address*

• Specify an outbound interface for a static route.

[Huawei] ip route-static ip-address { mask | mask-length } interface-type interface-number

Specify both the outbound interface and next hop for a static route.

[Huawei] ip route-static ip-address { mask | mask-length } interface-type interface-number [nexthop-address]

When creating a static route, you can specify both the outbound interface and next hop. Alternatively, you can specify either the outbound interface or next hop, depending on the interface type:

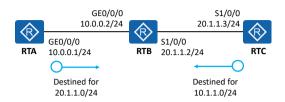
For a point-to-point interface (such as a serial interface), you must specify the outbound interface.

For a broadcast interface (for example, an Ethernet interface) or a virtual template (VT) interface, you must specify the next hop.





Configuration Example



- Configure static routes on RTA and RTC for communication between 10.0.0.0/24 and 20.1.1.0/24.
- Packets are forwarded hop by hop. Therefore, all the routers along the
 path from the source to the destination must have routes destined for
 the destination.
- Data communication is bidirectional. Therefore, both forward and backward routes must be available.

Configure RTA.

[RTA] ip route-static 20.1.1.0 255.255.255.0 10.0.0.2

Configure RTC.

[RTC] ip route-static 10.0.0.0 255.255.255.0 S1/0/0

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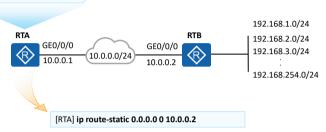




Default Routes

- Default routes are used only when packets to be forwarded do not match any routing entry in an IP routing table.
- In an IP routing table, a default route is the route to network 0.0.0.0 (with the mask 0.0.0.0), namely, 0.0.0.0/0.

RTA needs to forward packets to a subnet that is not directly connected to it and forwards the packets to 10.0.0.2.

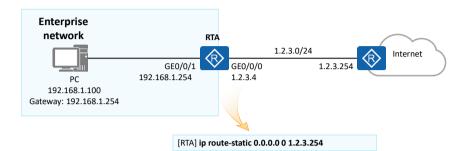






Application Scenarios of Default Routes

• Default routes are typically used at the egress of an enterprise network. For example, you can configure a default route on an egress device to enable the device to forward IP packets destined for any address on the Internet.



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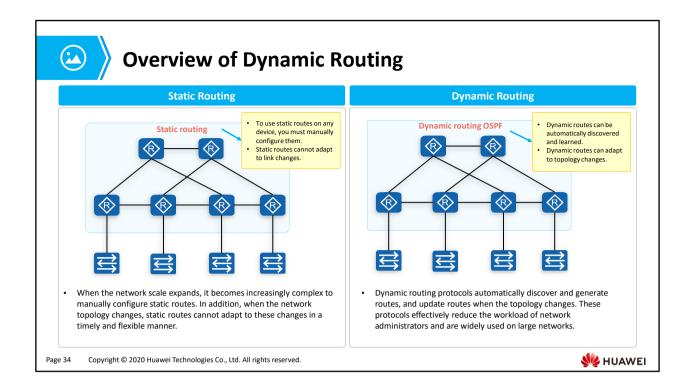




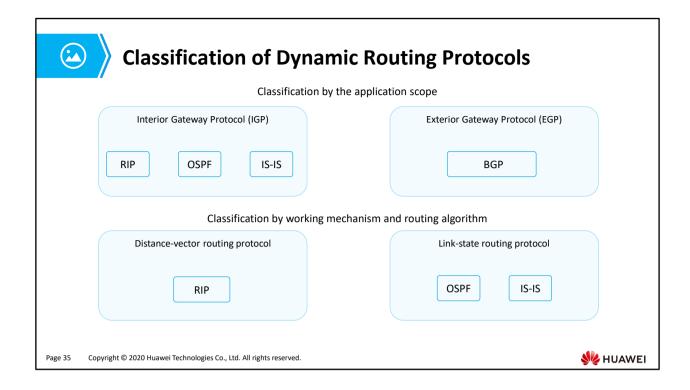
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- The disadvantage of static routes is that they cannot automatically adapt to network topology changes and so require manual intervention.
- Dynamic routing protocols provide different routing algorithms to adapt to network topology changes. Therefore, they are applicable to networks on which many Layer 3 devices are deployed.



- Dynamic routing protocols are classified into two types based on the routing algorithm:
 - Distance-vector routing protocol
 - RIP
 - Link-state routing protocol
 - OSPF
 - IS-IS
 - BGP uses a path vector algorithm, which is modified based on the distance-vector algorithm. Therefore, BGP is also called a path-vector routing protocol in some scenarios.
- Dynamic routing protocols are classified into the following types by their application scope:
 - IGPs run within an autonomous system (AS), including RIP, OSPF, and IS-IS.
 - EGP runs between different ASs, among which BGP is the most frequently used.



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Route Recursion (1)

 Route recursion is a recursive search process of the IP routing table where the next-hop IP address is wanted to route packets towards its destination but when found it is not part of any directly connected network.

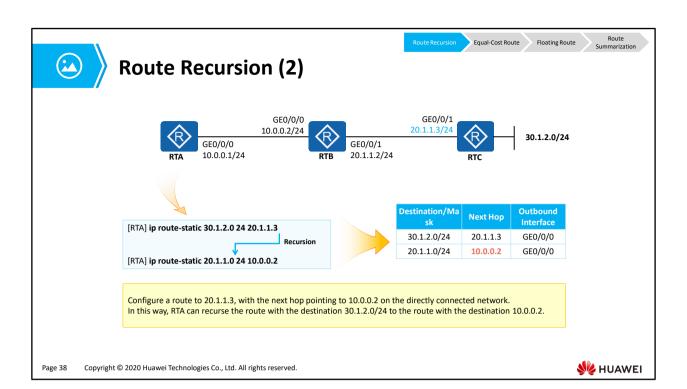


[RTA] ip route-static 30.1.2.0 24 20.1.1.3

The next hop of the route to 30.1.2.0/24 is 20.1.1.3, which is not on a directly connected network of RTA. If the IP routing table does not have a route to 20.1.1.3, this static route does not take effect and cannot be installed in the IP routing table.

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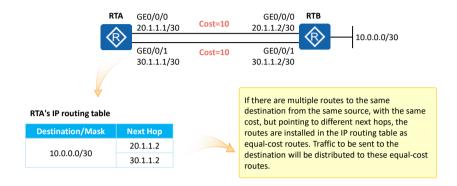






Equal-Cost Route

• When there are equal-cost routes in the IP routing table, a router forwards IP packets to be sent to the destination subnet through all valid outbound interfaces and next hops in the equal-cost routes, achieving load balancing.

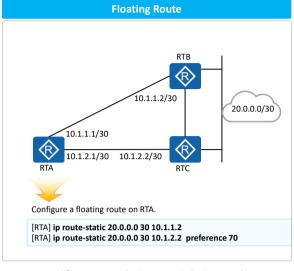


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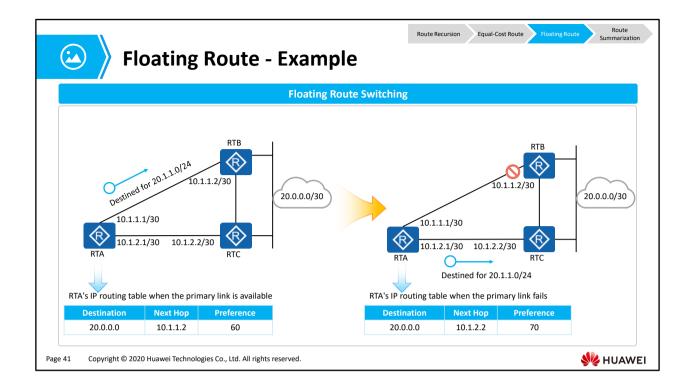
Floating Route - Basic Concepts



- Different preferences can be manually configured for static routes. Therefore, you can configure two static routes with the same destination address/mask but different preferences and next hops to implement backup of forwarding paths.
- A backup route is known as a floating route, which is used only when the primary route is unavailable. That is, a floating route is installed in the IP routing table only when the next hop of the primary route is unreachable.



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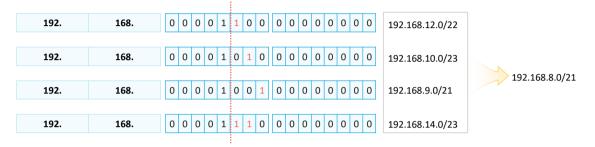


- When the link between RTA and RTB is normal, the two routes to 20.0.0.0/30 are both valid. In
 this case, RTA compares the preferences of the two routes, which are 60 and 70 respectively.
 Therefore, the route with the preference value 60 is installed in the IP routing table, and RTA
 forwards traffic to the next hop 10.1.1.2.
- If the link between RTA and RTB is faulty, the next hop 10.1.1.2 is unreachable, which causes the corresponding route invalid. In this case, the backup route to 20.0.0.0/30 is installed in the IP routing table. RTA forwards traffic destined for 20.0.0.1 to the next hop 10.1.2.2.



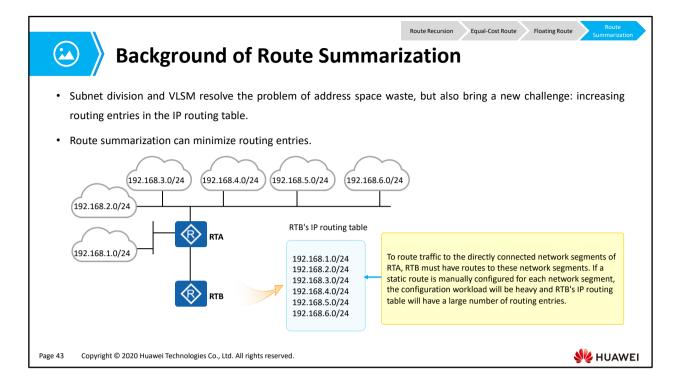
CIDR

- Classless Inter-Domain Routing (CIDR) uses IP addresses and masks to identify networks and subnets. CIDR replaces the previous addressing architecture of classful network design (such as classes A, B, and C addresses).
- CIDR is based on variable length subnet mask (VLSM). CIDR uses prefixes of any lengths to divide the address space with continuous IP addresses. Multiple address segments with continuous prefixes can be summarized into a network, effectively reducing the number of routing entries.

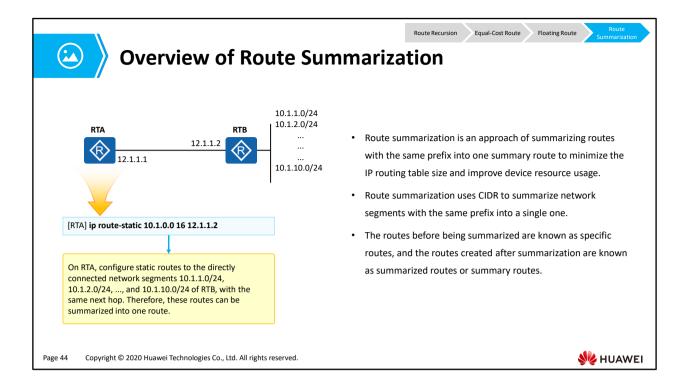


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• On a large-scale network, routers or other routing-capable devices need to maintain a large number of routing entries, which will consume a large amount of device resources. In addition, the IP routing table size is increasing, resulting in a low efficiency of routing entry lookup. Therefore, we need to minimize the size of IP routing tables on routers while ensuring IP reachability between the routers and different network segments. If a network has scientific IP addressing and proper planning, we can achieve this goal by using different methods. A common and effective method is route summarization, which is also known as route aggregation.



- To enable RTA to reach remote network segments, we need to configure a specific route to each network segment. In this example, the routes to 10.1.1.0/24, 10.1.2.0/24, and 10.1.3.0/24 have the same next hop, that is, 12.1.1.2. Therefore, we can summarize these routes into a single one.
- This effectively reduces the size of RTA's IP routing table.





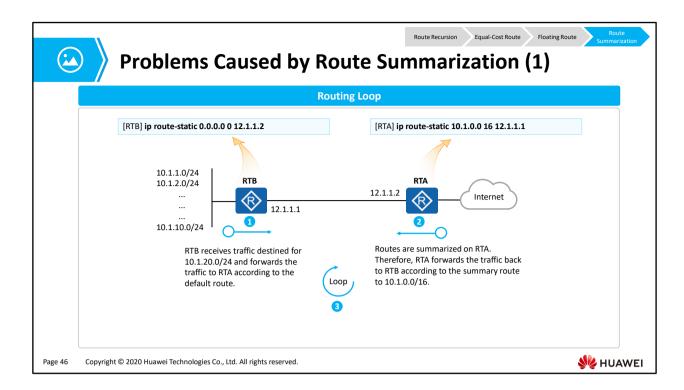
Summarization and Calculation

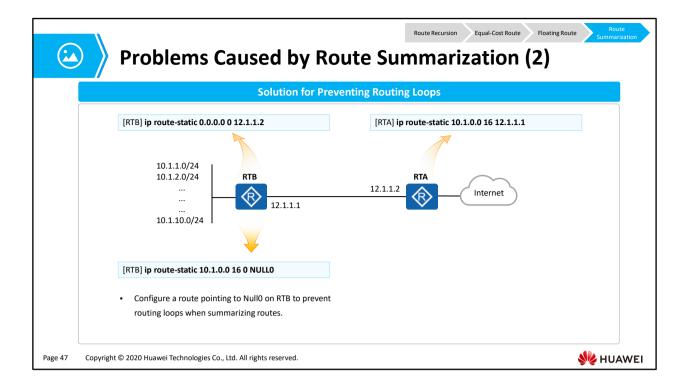
	192	168	х	0
192.168.1.0/24	1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
192.168.2.0/24	1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0	00000010	00000000
192.168.3.0/24	1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1	0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Network address				Host address
<u> </u>				
192.168.0.0/22	1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0	1 0 1 0 1 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

- To summarize routes to multiple continuous network segments into one summary route that just includes these network segments, ensure that the mask length of the summary route is as long as possible.
- The key to achieve this is to convert the destination addresses of specific routes into binary numbers and then find out the identical bits in these binary numbers.

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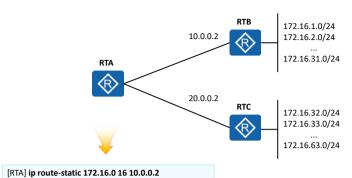




• In most cases, both static and dynamic routes need to be associated with an outbound interface. This interface is the egress through which the device is connected to a destination network. The outbound interface in a route can be a physical interface such as a 100M or GE interface, or a logical interface such as a VLANIF or tunnel interface. There is a special interface, that is, Null interface. It has only one interface number, that is, 0. Null0 is a logical interface and is always up. When Null0 is used as the outbound interface in a route, data packets matching this route are discarded, like being dumped into a black-hole. Therefore, such a route is called a black-hole route.

Floating Route

Accurate Route Summarization (1)

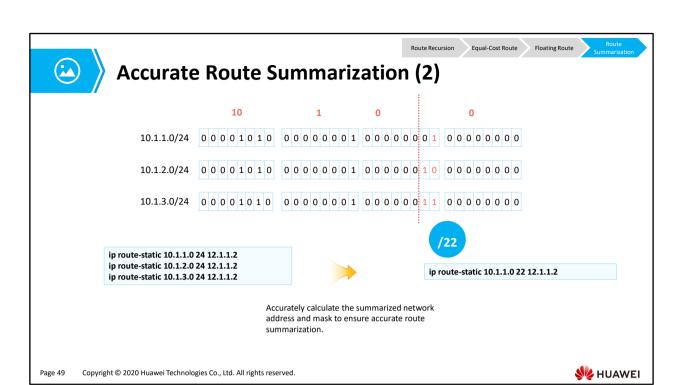


• To simplify the configuration, an administrator may configure a static summary route on RTA to allow RTA to reach network segments 172.16.1.0/24 to 172.16.31.0/24 of RTB. However, this summary route also includes the network segments of RTC. As a result, RTA forwards the traffic destined for network segments of RTC to RTB, causing data packet loss. This problem is caused by inaccurate route summarization. To resolve this problem, the summary route must be as accurate as possible; that is, it just covers all specific routes that are to be

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summarized, with no extra route included.







- 1. How does a router select the optimal route?
- 2. How do I configure a floating route?
- 3. What is the summary route for routes to 10.1.1.0/24, 10.1.3.0/24, and 10.1.9.0/24?

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- 1. The router first compares preferences of routes. The route with the lowest preference value is selected as the optimal route. If the routes have the same preferences, the router compares their metrics. If the routes have the same metric, they are installed in the IP routing table as equal-cost routes.
- 2. To configure a floating route, configure a static route with the same destination network segment and mask as the primary route but a different next hop and a larger preference value.
- 3. The summary route is 10.1.0.0/20.



- This section presents the basic concepts of routes, how routes instruct routers to forward IP packets, common route attributes, and default routes (special static routes).
- In addition, this section describes advanced routing features including route recursion, floating routes, and equal-cost routes, which are widely used on live networks.

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