Seeing Double?
Implementing Multicast with eBPF and Cilium

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Who am I?



Datapath Engineer at Cisco (Isovalent Team)



Focus on Linux kernel networking and eBPF



Open source software enthusiast



Neovim plugin and Linux desktop developer in free time.

What we'll cover

- A gentle introduction to multicast
- How multicast is implemented with eBPF and Cilium

Follow Along

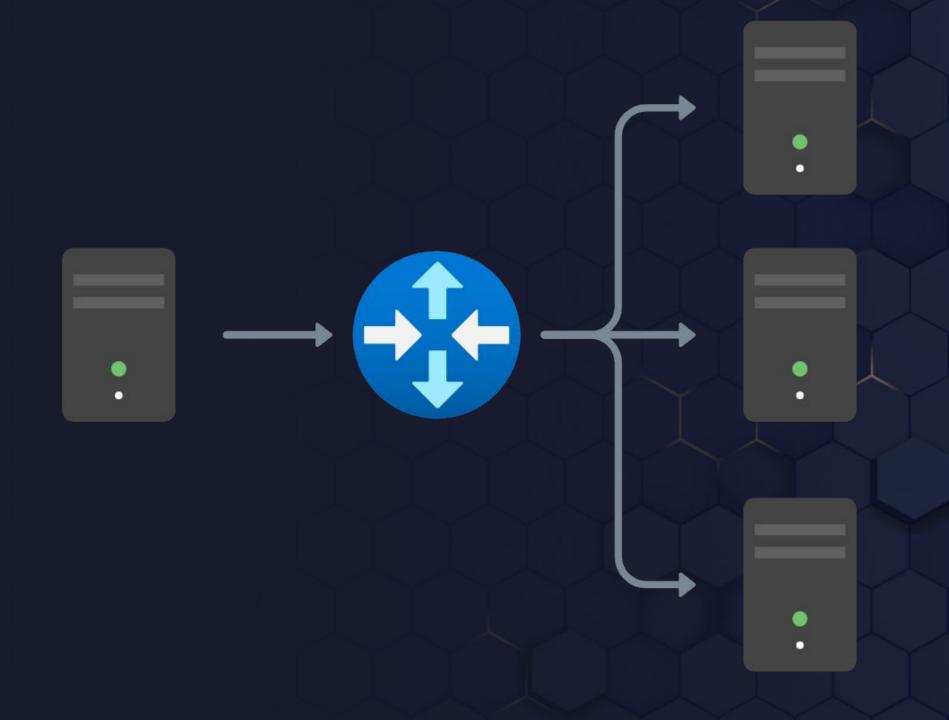
https://github.com/cilium/cilium/blob/main/bpf/lib/mcast.h

But first, some disclaimers!!

- 1. I am not a multicast expert.
- 2. Multicast within the context of Kubernetes and Cilium
- 3. A focus on the eBPF datapath

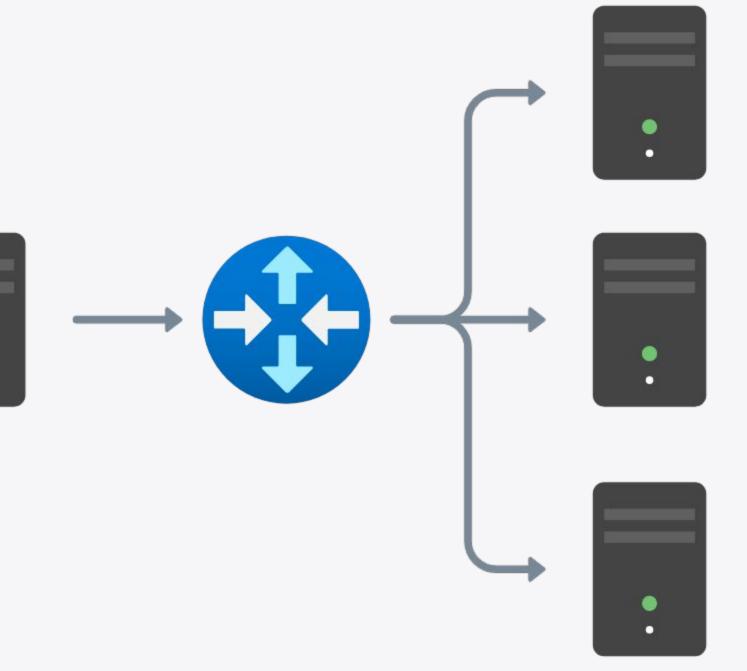
What is multicast?

A gentle introduction...



What is multicast?

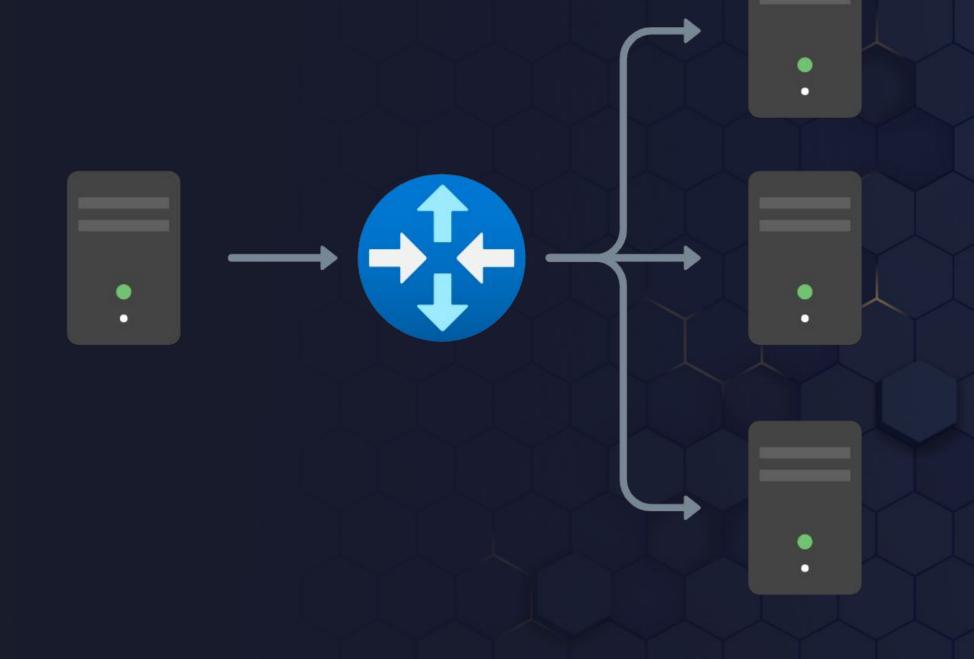
- Properly introduced in RFC 1112 Host extension for IP Multicasting
- Operates at the IP layer, layer 3
- Typically connectionless layer 4 protocols (UDP)
- Unicast delivery to a group of hosts, efficiently
- Removes the resource burden from the source



Where is multicast used?

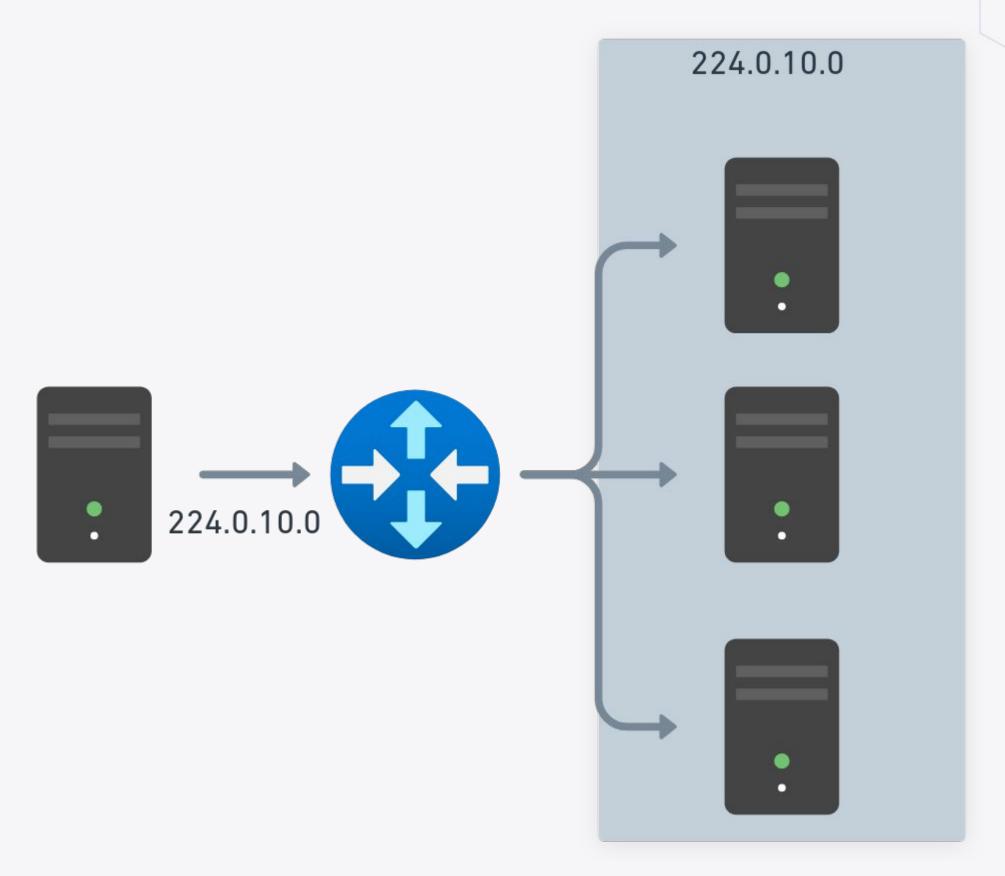
- Broadcasting and Media Streaming
 - A/V streams efficiently delivered to, at times, millions of clients
- Financial Services
 - Market data distribution
- Online Gaming
 - Broadcasting of game state and updates to all players

How multicast works



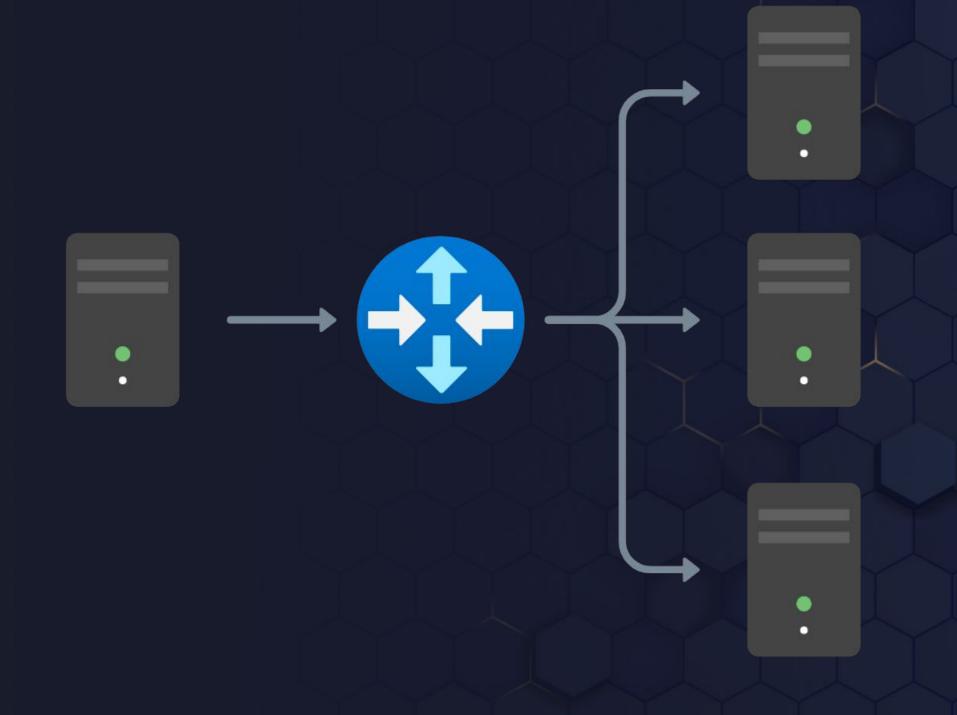
Multicast Group Addresses

- Internet addresses which represent a group of hosts.
- Class D address
 - 0 224.0.0.0 239.255.255.255
 - 224.0.0.0- guaranteed not in use
 - 224.0.0.1 all-hosts address for LAN
 - useful for service discovery! (mDNS)
 - o 224.0.0.2 all-routers address
- Traffic send to a group host address is delivered to all members of the group.



Group Management

The IGMP protocol



Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP)

- Workhorse protocol for Multicast
- Implements group management
 - Hosts joining groups
 - Hosts leaving groups
 - Routers/Hosts querying groups
- A Layer 3 (IP) Protocol
 - IP Protocol 2
- Two major objects
 - Membership Reports
 - Sent by hosts for group management
 - Membership Queries
 - Sent by Multicast routers for group querying

Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP)

- Multiple Version
- IGMPv1
 - o Introduced in RFC 1112
 - Host membership query
 - Host membership report
- IGMPv2
 - Introduced in RFC 2236
 - Group specific membership query
 - LEAVE message type
- IGMPv3
 - Introduced in RFC 3376
 - Source Filtering*

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IGMPv1 on the Wire

- Very simple format
- Kernel uses struct igmphdr for all IGMP versions
- 8 bytes
- type is a type code
 - 1 Host Membership Query
 - 2 Host Membership Report
- code is unused
- group is the Group Address

IGMPv2 on the Wire

- New type codes
- type is a type code
 - 0x11 Membership Query
 - 0x16 Membership Report V2
 - 0x17 Leave Group
 - 0x12 Membership Report V1
- code is used for maximum response time
 (Membership Queries only)
- group is the Host Group Address

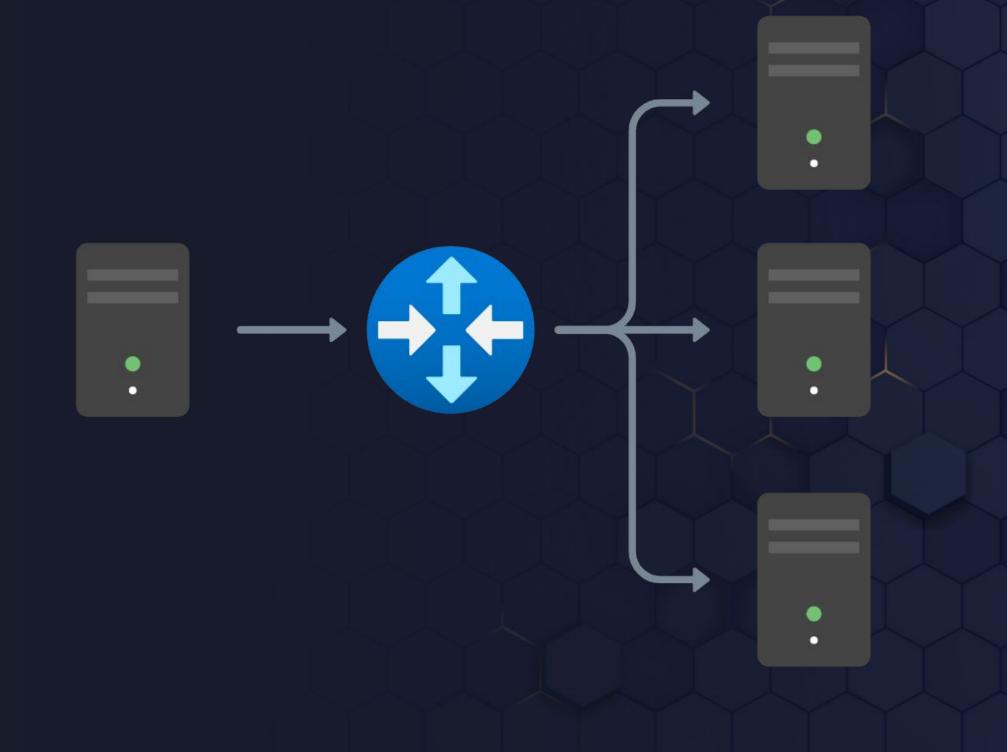
IGMPv3 on the Wire

- IGMPv3 makes membership reports variable sized
- type is a type code
 - 0x22 IGMPv3 Membership Report
- When 0x22 type is encountered the packet is parsed with struct igmpv3_report
- igmpv3_report holds a variable array of Group Records (struct igmpv3_grec)
- Each Group Record is an intent to joint a particular group with optional source filtering.

IGMPv3 Group Record

- Supports source filtering*
- grec_type is a type code which helps interpret list of sources
 - 1 MODE_IS_INCLUDE
 - 2 MODE_IS_EXCLUDE
 - o ...
- grec_auxwords not used
- grec_nsrcs number of source
 addresses in grec_src
- grec_mca the multicast group address the Group Record refers to.
- grec_src a variable list of IP unicast source addresses.

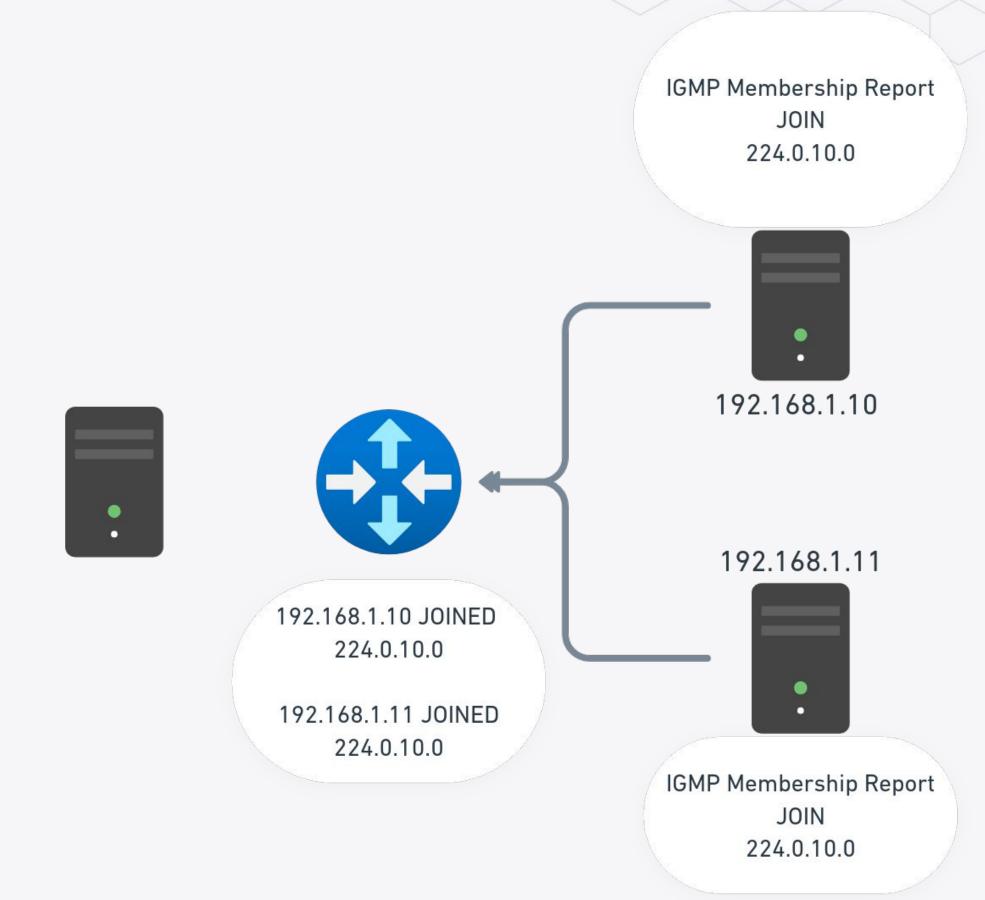
IGMP In Action



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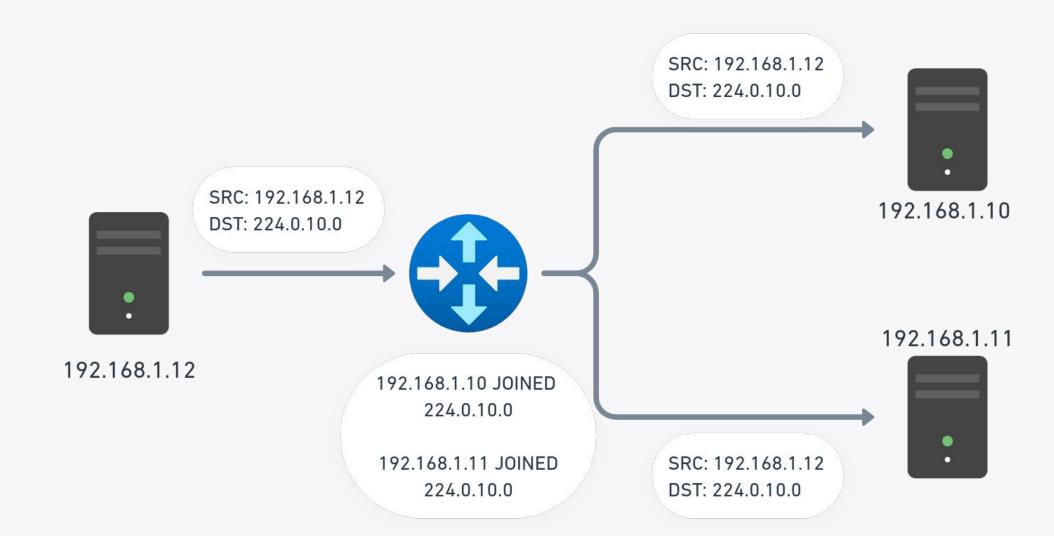
IGMP Snooping

- A multicast router listens for JOIN messages
- Keeps track of which sources joined which groups
- Multicast applications MUST send a JOIN message on initialization (per RFC 1112)



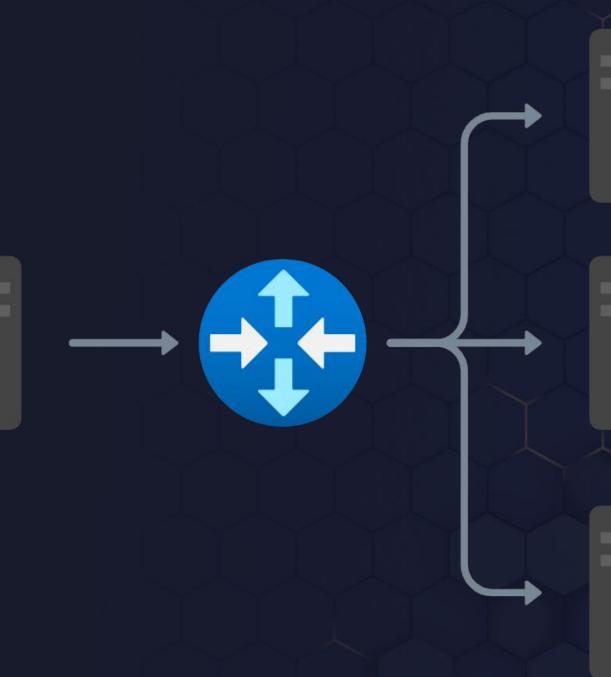
Packet Replication

- A media server sends data to a multicast group.
- The multicast router receives this data, replicates it, and delivers it.



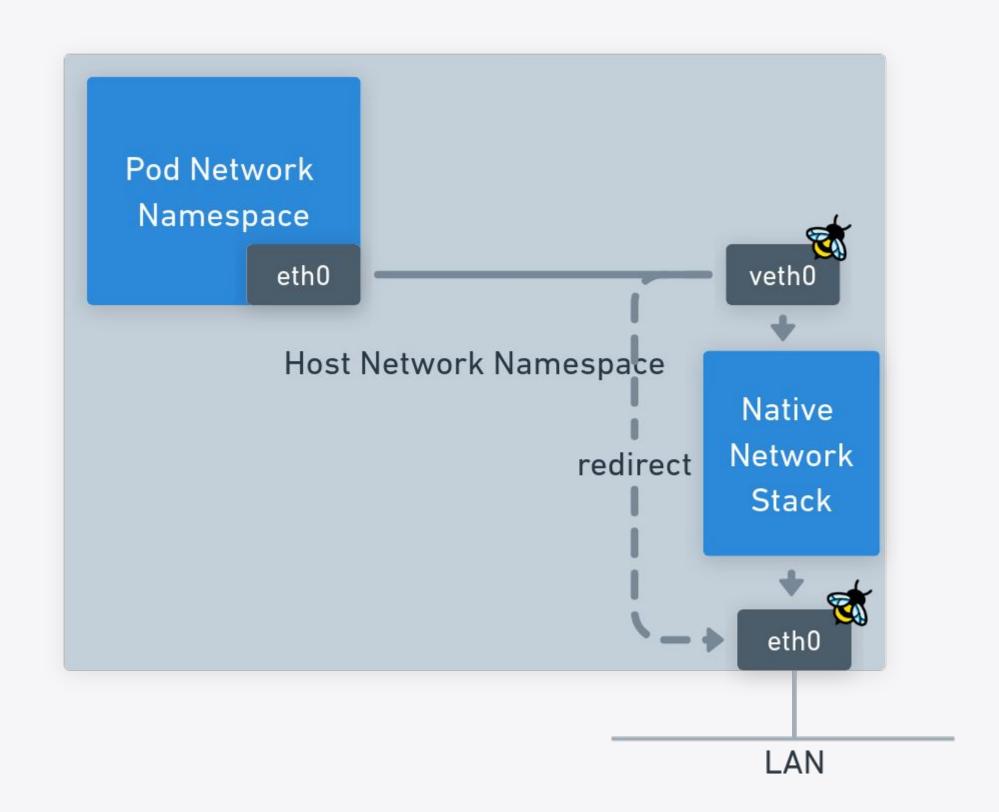
Implementing Multicast with eBPF and Cilium

Kubernetes And Cilium Network Architecture



Simplified Topology

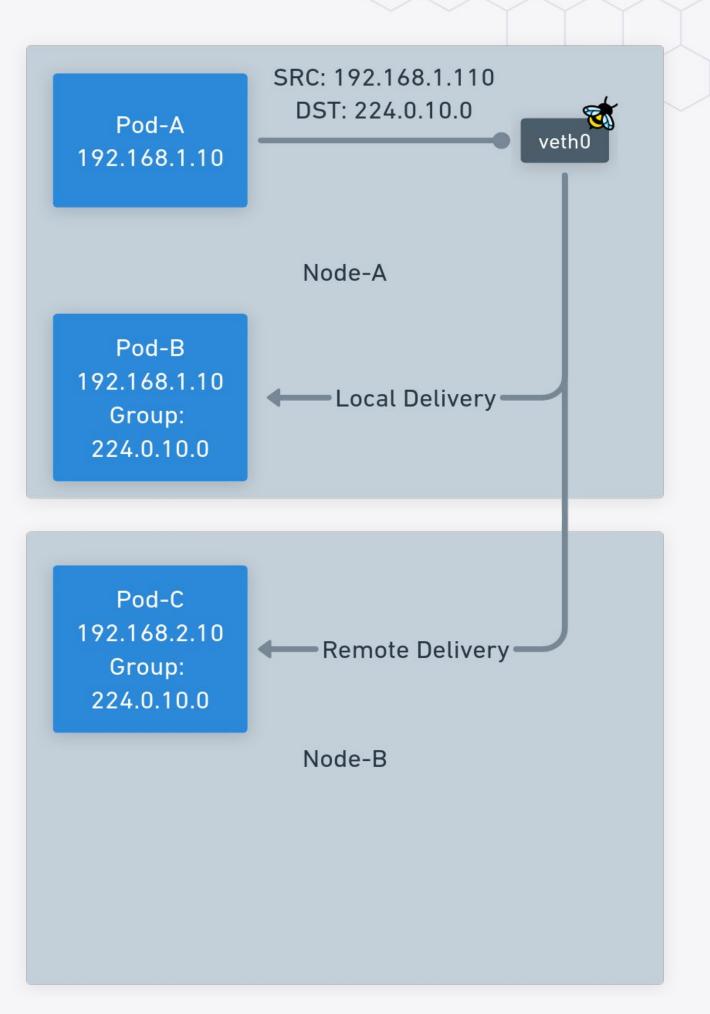
- Pods deployed in their own network namespace
- Veth pair connects Pod netns with host's
- Cilium attaches eBPF on the host-side veth pair.
- Cilium attaches eBPF to the native device attached to the LAN
- eBPF can push a packet to the native stack, or redirect to another interface



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Multicast Topology

- Pod-A sends to a multicast group
- eBPF is used to replicate the packet and
 - Deliver to local pods in group
 - Deliver to remote pods in group



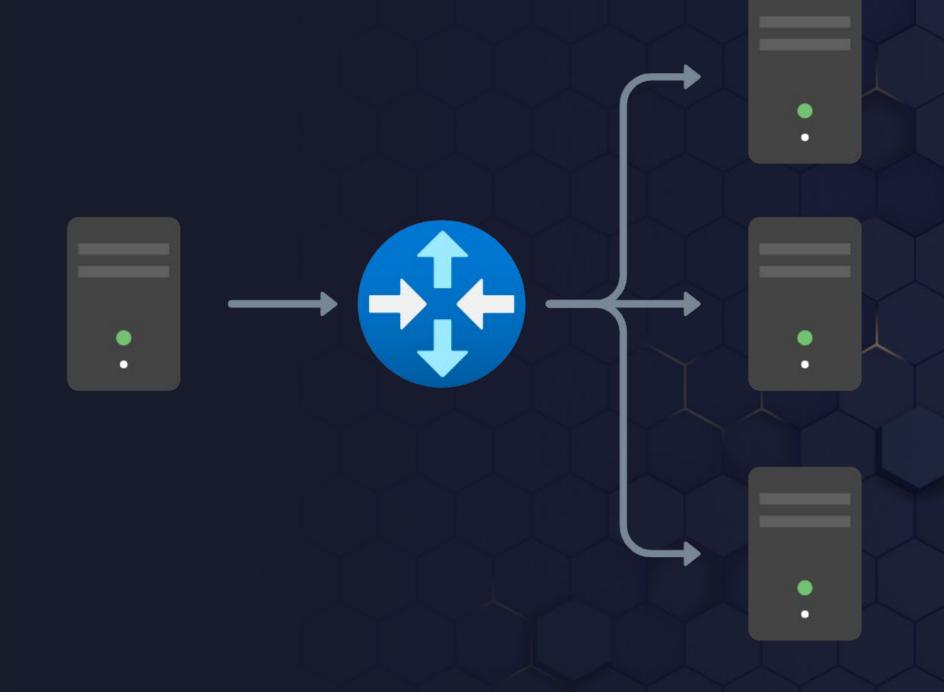
The puzzle pieces

- Group Membership Management
- Packet Replication
- Local Multicast Delivery
- Remote Multicast Delivery



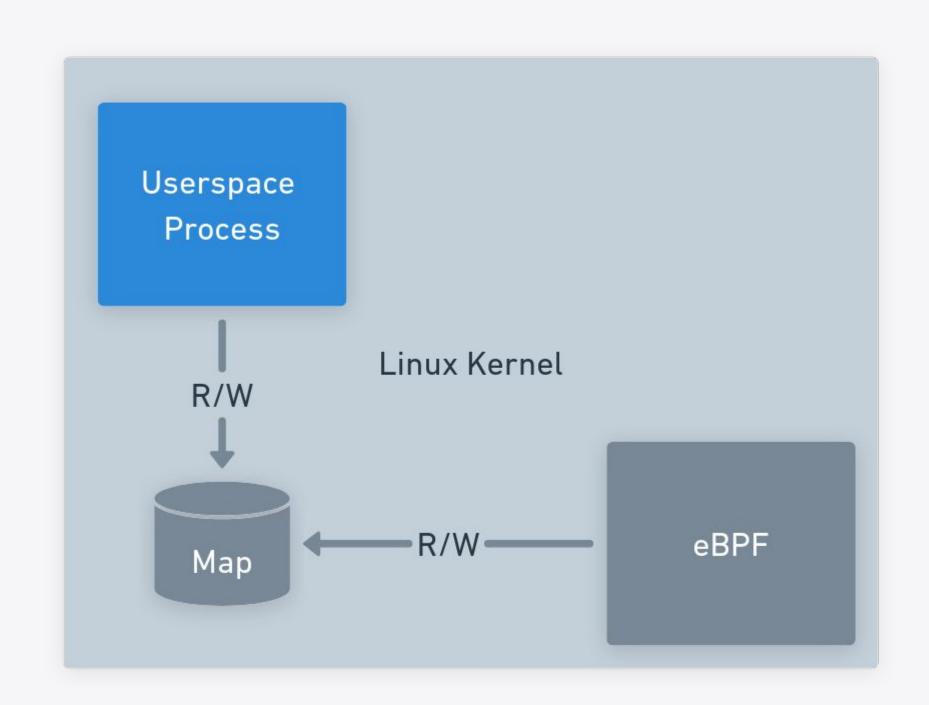
Group Management

Storing state



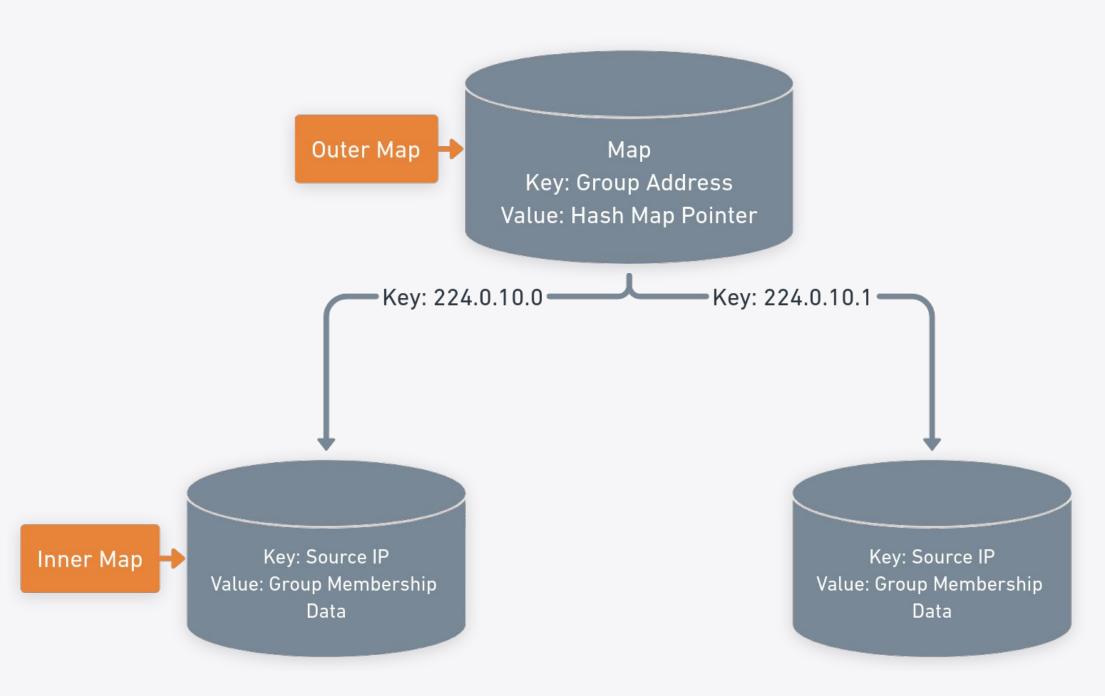
Storing State With Maps

- In-Kernel dynamic datastructures
- Created in userspace
- General Maps
 - Hash
 - Array
- Specific Maps
 - Nested Maps*
 - LPM Maps
 - Prog Maps
 - o ...
- Provides:
 - State between eBPF invocations
 - Communication between eBPF and Userspace



Storing Group Membership with Maps

- Conceptually we want:
 - Map Key: Multicast Group Address
 - Map Value: Multicast Group
 Members
- Best fit?
 - A nested map type:BPF_MAP_TYPE_HASH_OF_MAPS
 - Hash map who's values point to another hash map.
- Lookup multicast address on outer map
- Lookup subscribers on returned inner map.



Nested Map Definition

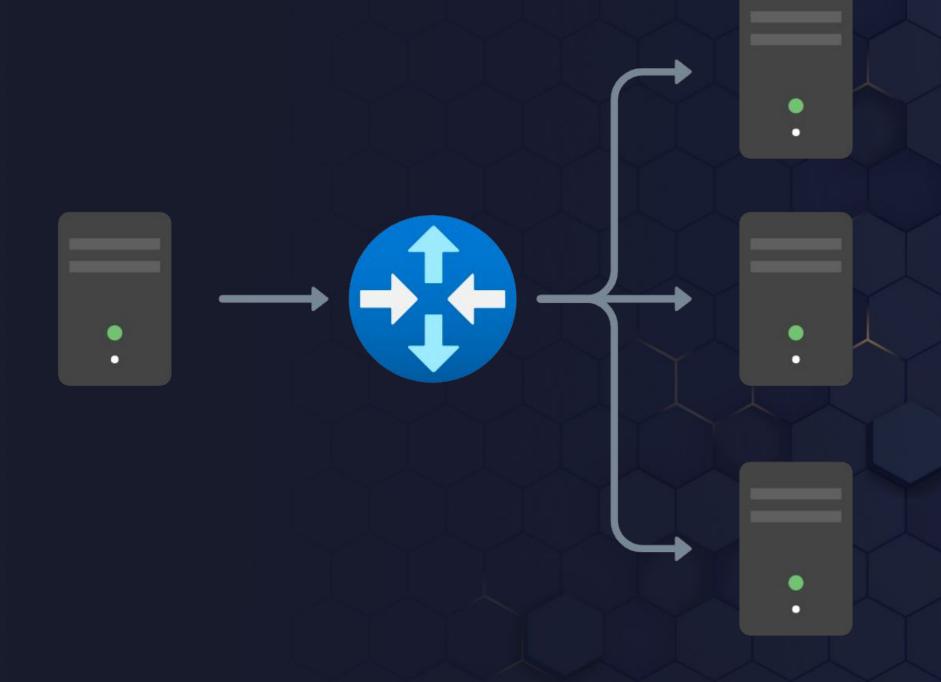
- cilium_mcast_group_outer_v4_map defines outer map
 - o key: mcast_group_v4
 - value: inner map
 - key: __be32 subscriber's source address
 - value: struct
 mcast_subscriber_v4
- struct mcast_subscriber_v4
 - saddr source address of subscriber
 - ifindex interface used for multicast delivery
 - flags flags used to specify properties of subscriber.

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```
/* 32bit big endian multicast group address for use with ipv4 protocol */
typedef __be32 mcast_group_v4;
/* structure to describe a local or remote subscriber of a multicast group
 * for the ipv4 protocol.
struct mcast_subscriber_v4 {
        /* source address of the subscriber, big endian */
        __be32 saddr;
        /* local ifindex of subscriber of exit interface is remote subscriber */
        __u32 ifindex;
        /* reserved */
        __u16 pad1;
        /* reserved */
        __u8 pad2;
        /* flags for further subscriber description */
        __u8 flags;
#ifdef ENABLE_MULTICAST
#define MCAST_MAX_GROUP 1024
#define MCAST MAX SUBSCRIBERS 1024
/st used to bound iteration of group records within an igmpv3 membership report st
#define MCAST_MAX_GREC 24
/* Multicast group map is a nested hash of maps.
 * The outer map is keyed by a 'mcast_group_v4' multicast group address.
 * The inner value is an hash map of 'mcast_subscriber_v4' structures keyed
 * by a their IPv4 source address in big endian format.
struct {
        __uint(type, BPF_MAP_TYPE_HASH_OF_MAPS);
        __type(key, mcast_group_v4);
        __type(value, __u32);
        __uint(pinning, LIBBPF_PIN_BY_NAME);
        uint(max entries, MCAST_MAX_GROUP);
        __uint(map_flags, CONDITIONAL_PREALLOC);
        /* Multicast group subscribers inner map definition */
        __array(values, struct {
                __uint(type, BPF_MAP_TYPE_HASH);
                __uint(key_size, sizeof(__be32));
                __uint(value_size, sizeof(struct mcast_subscriber_v4));
                __uint(max_entries, MCAST_MAX_SUBSCRIBERS);
                __uint(map_flags, CONDITIONAL_PREALLOC);
  cilium_mcast_group_outer_v4_map __section_maps_btf;
```

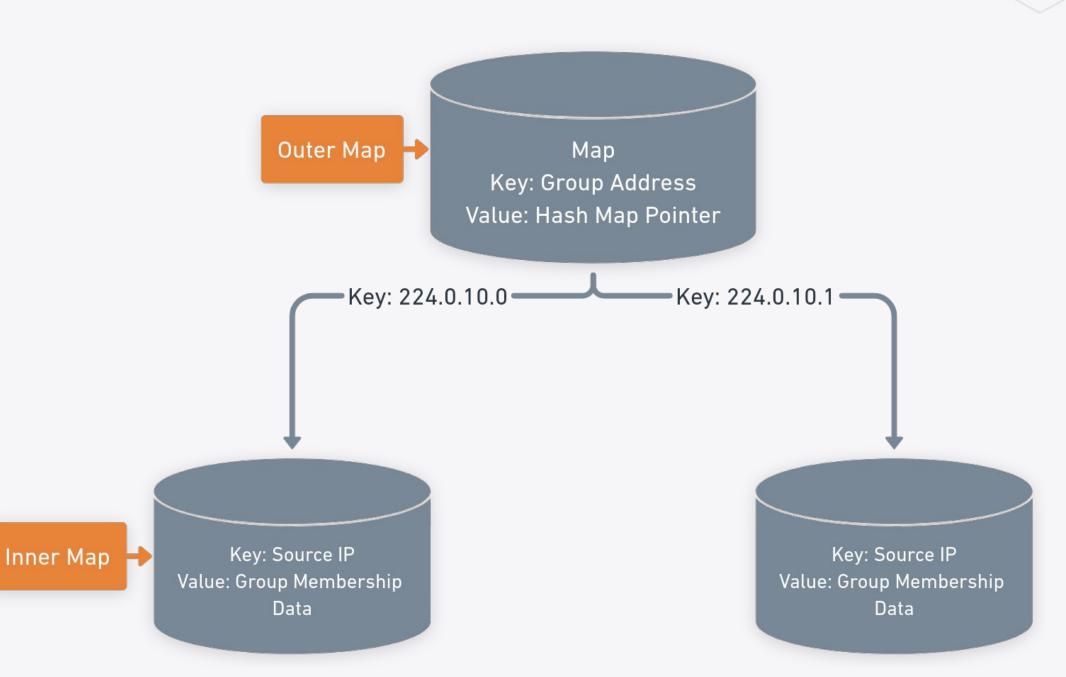
Group Management

IGMP Snooping



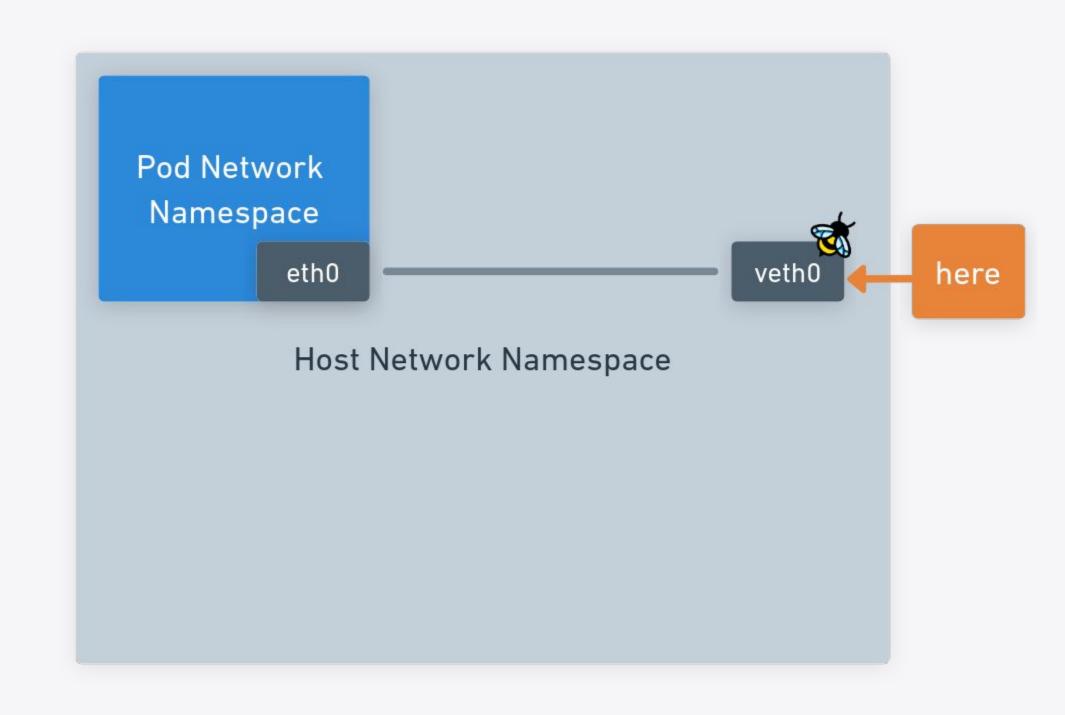
IGMP Snooping Operation

- Listen for IGMP JOIN and LEAVE messages
- On JOIN
 - Lookup associated Group Address in outer map
 - Add subscriber to returned inner map.
- On LEAVE
 - Lookup associated Group Address in outer map
 - Remove subscriber from returned inner map



Where to snoop?

- Cilium installs it's eBPF datapath on the pod's host-side veth.
- This veth is within the host's network namespace.
- Any multicast traffic sent from the pod will arrive here.
- eBPF TC/TCX ingress.



How to snoop? Step 1: Identify IGMP traffic

- Identify IGMP traffic
- mcast_ipv4_is_igmp determines if
 IPv4 header is IGMP
- mcast_ipv4_igmp_type parses out IGMP type.
 - Perform eBPF bounds check, data pointers must be large enough
 - Seek data pointer past IPv4 header
 and cast it to struct igmphdr *
 - Return hdr->type

How to snoop? Step 2: Identify IGMP Version

- Cilium only supports IGMPv2 and IGMPv3
- Use mcast_ipv4_igmp_type to determine type.

```
#define IGMPV2_HOST_MEMBERSHIP_REPORT>
                                                         /* V2 version of 0x12 */
                                                0x16
 #define IGMP_HOST_LEAVE_MESSAGE
                                                0x17
  #define IGMPV3_HOST_MEMBERSHIP_REPORT>
                                               0x22
                                                         /* V3 version of 0x12 */
 * ipv4 igmp handler which dispatches to specific igmp message handlers */
static __always_inline __s32 mcast_ipv4_handle_igmp(void *ctx
                                                   struct iphdr *ip4,
                                                   void *data,
                                                   void *data_end)
       __s32 igmp_type = mcast_ipv4_igmp_type(ip4, data, data_end);
       if (igmp_type < 0)</pre>
               return igmp_type;
       switch (igmp_type) {
       case IGMPV3_HOST_MEMBERSHIP_REPORT:
               return mcast_ipv4_handle_v3_membership_report(ctx,
                                                             &cilium_mcast_group_outer_v4_map,
                                                             ip4,
                                                             data,
                                                             data_end);
        case IGMPV2_HOST_MEMBERSHIP_REPORT:
               return mcast_ipv4_handle_v2_membership_report(ctx,
                                                             &cilium_mcast_group_outer_v4_map
                                                             ip4,
                                                             data,
                                                             data_end);
        case IGMP_HOST_LEAVE_MESSAGE:
               return mcast_ipv4_handle_igmp_leave(&cilium_mcast_group_outer_v4_map,
                                                   data,
                                                   data_end);
       return DROP_IGMP_HANDLED;
```

How to snoop? Step 3: Parse Membership Report (IGMPv2)

- IGMPv2 is simple
- Preemptively create a subscriber.
- Bounds check on data pointer, must be large enough for igmphdr
- Lookup the subscriber map by the Group Address
- Add new subscriber to the returned subscriber map

```
const struct iphdr *ip4
                                                              const void *data,
                                                              const void *data_end)
       struct mcast_subscriber_v4 subscriber = {
              .saddr = ip4->saddr,
              .ifindex = ctx_get_ingress_ifindex(ctx)
       int ip_len = ip4->ihl * 4;
       const struct igmphdr *hdr;
       void *sub_map = 0;
       if (data + ETH_HLEN + ip_len + sizeof(struct igmphdr) > data_end)
              return DROP_INVALID;
      hdr = data + ETH_HLEN + ip_len;
      if (hdr->type != IGMPV2_HOST_MEMBERSHIP_REPORT)
              return DROP_INVALID;
      /* lookup user configured multicast group */
       sub_map = map_lookup_elem(group_map, &hdr->group);
       if (!sub_map)
              return DROP_IGMP_HANDLED;
       if (mcast_ipv4_add_subscriber(sub_map, &subscriber))
              return DROP_IGMP_SUBSCRIBED;
       return DROP IGMP HANDLED;
```

How to snoop? Step 3: Parse Membership Report (IGMPv3)

- IGMPv3 is more complex
- When a IGMPv3 Membership Report is found format is now igmpv3_report
- An igmpv3_report has a variable list of igmpv3_grec structures
- Each igmpv3_grec structure provides a Group Address and a list of sources.
- igmpv3_grec.type determines how
 src is interpreted



How to snoop? Step 3: Parse Membership Report (IGMPv3)

- mcast_ipv4_handle_v3_membership_report
 preamble start the same at IGMPv2 (not shown).
- Obtain the number of Group Records in the IGMPv3 Membership Report.
- Loop over records, eBPF must have bounded loops.
- Similarly, lookup subscriber map for Group Record's Multicast address
- Handle addition or remove based on type
 - When type is CHANGE_TO_EXCLUDE with 0 source address, this means add the subscriber
 - When type is CHANGE_TO_INCLUDE with 0 sources, this means remove the subscriber

```
ngrec = bpf_ntohs(rep->ngrec);
       if (ngrec > MCAST_MAX_GREC)
               return DROP_INVALID;
pragma unroll#
       for (i = 0; i < MCAST_MAX_GREC; i++) {
               if (i < ngrec) {
                       rec = &rep->grec[i];
                       if ((void *)rec + sizeof(struct igmpv3_grec) > data_end)
                               return DROP_INVALID;
                       sub_map = map_lookup_elem(group_map, &rec->grec_mca);
                       if (!sub map)
                       if (rec->grec_type == IGMPV3_CHANGE_TO_EXCLUDE) {
                               subscribed = mcast_ipv4_add_subscriber(sub_map, &subscriber)
                               if (subscribed != 1)
                                       return DROP INVALID;
                       if (rec->grec_type == IGMPV3_CHANGE_TO_INCLUDE)
                               mcast_ipv4_remove_subscriber(sub_map, &subscriber);
       if (subscribed)
               return DROP_IGMP_SUBSCRIBED;
       return DROP_IGMP_HANDLED;
```

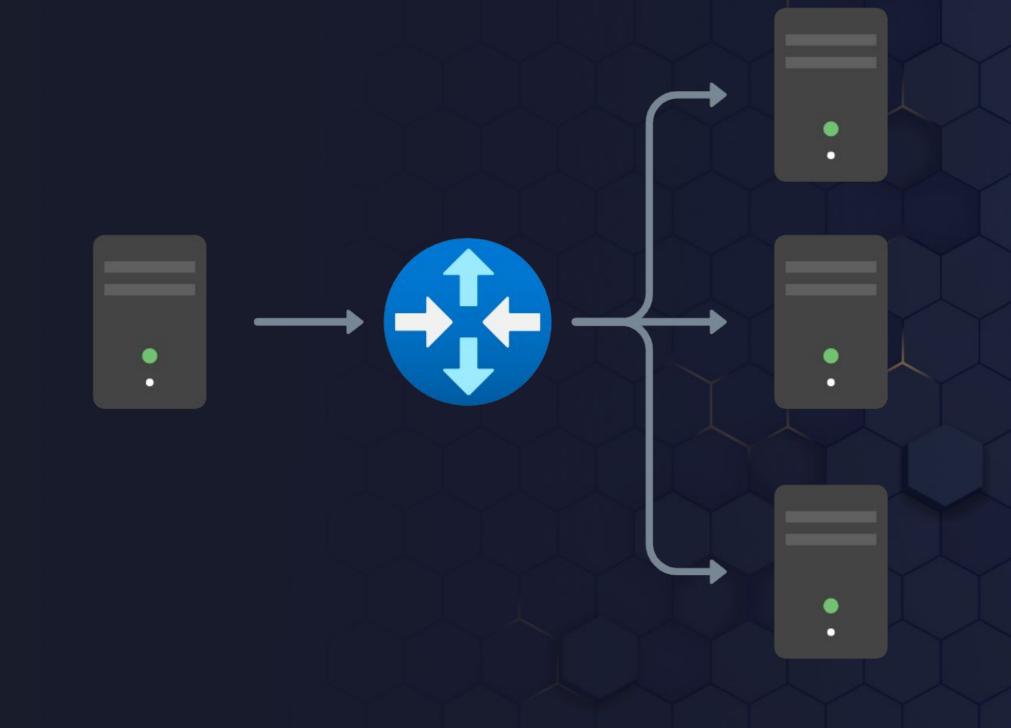
How to snoop? Step 4: Parse LEAVE

- Simple.
- Look for the LEAVE type (same for all version) and remove our subscriber.

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```
static __always_inline __s32 mcast_ipv4_handle_igmp_leave(void *group_map,
                                                          const struct iphdr *ip4,
                                                          const void *data,
                                                          const void *data end)
        struct mcast_subscriber_v4 subscriber = {
                .saddr = ip4->saddr,
        int ip_len = ip4->ihl * 4;
        const struct igmphdr *hdr;
        void *sub_map = 0;
        if (data + ETH_HLEN + ip_len + sizeof(struct igmphdr) > data_end)
                return DROP_INVALID;
        hdr = data + ETH_HLEN + ip_len;
        if (hdr->type != IGMP_HOST_LEAVE_MESSAGE)
                return DROP_INVALID;
       /* lookup user configured multicast group */
        sub_map = map_lookup_elem(group_map, &hdr->group);
        if (!sub_map)
                return DROP_IGMP_HANDLED;
       mcast_ipv4_remove_subscriber(sub_map, &subscriber);
       return DROP_IGMP_HANDLED;
```

Packet Replication



eBPF clone and redirect

Redirect:

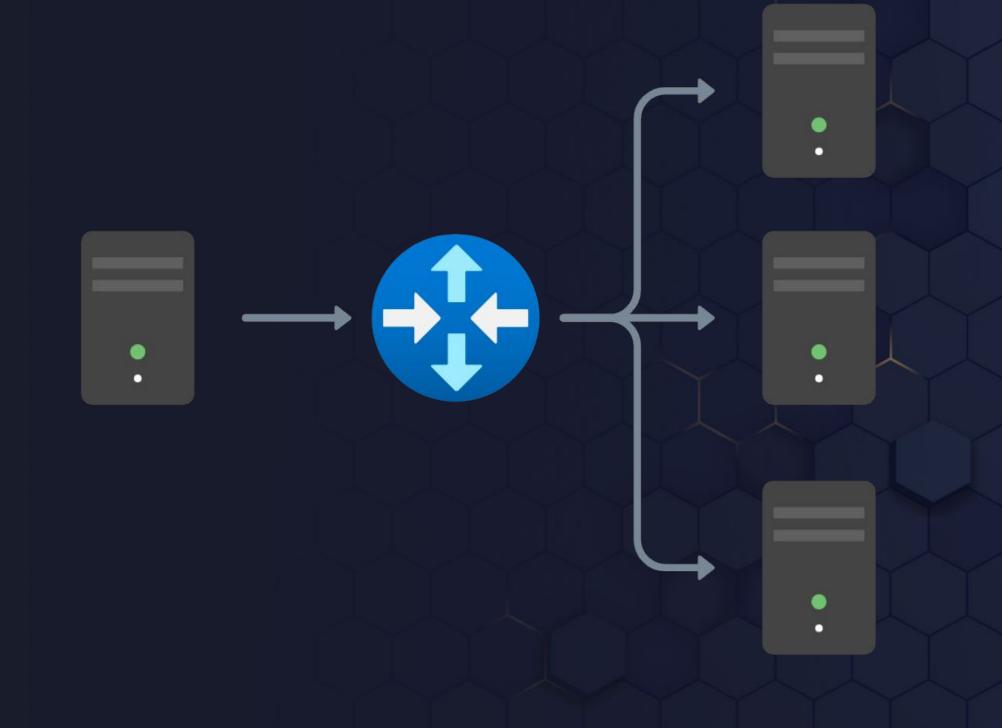
- Inject an struct sk_buff back into the next stack, as if it came from a different interface.
- Can inject on the ingress side, or egress side.

• Clone:

- Create a copy of a struct sk_buff which refers to the original data buffer.
- We want to do both and we can!
 - bpf_clone_redirect helper
 - Makes a clone of an skb and redirects it another interface.
 - Any modifications desired on the clone must be done first.

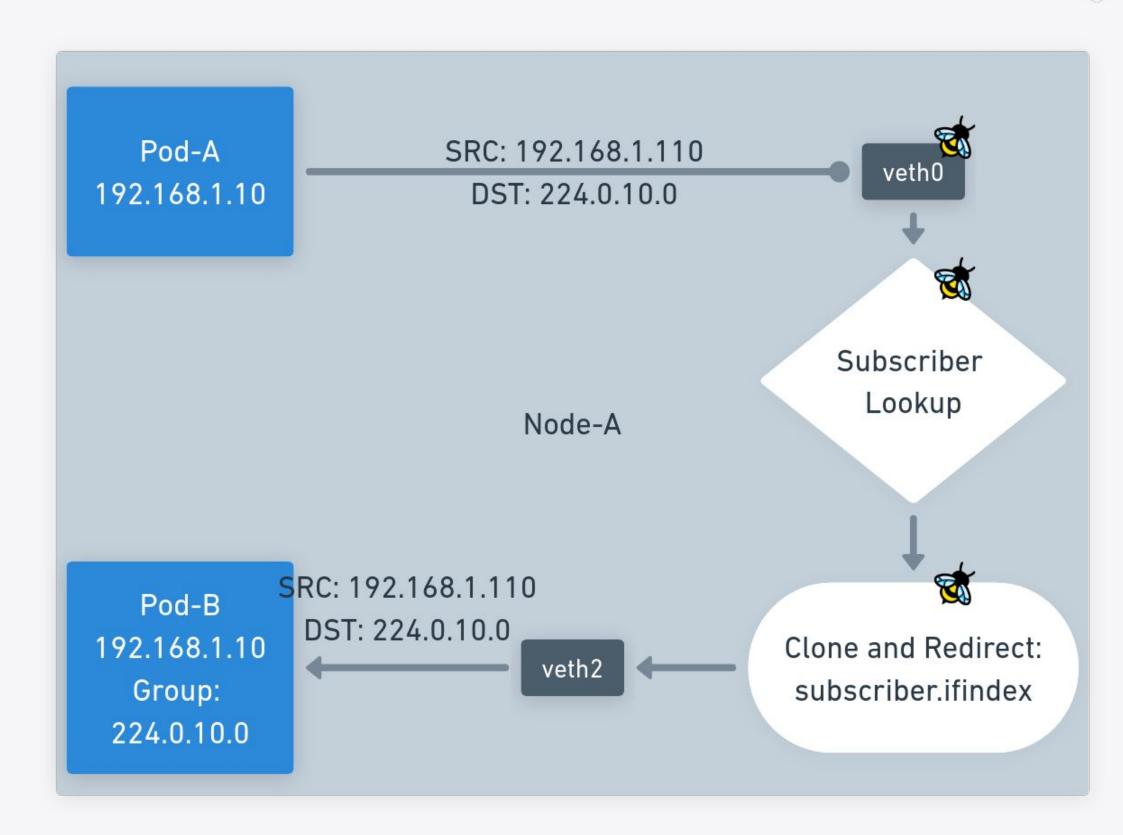
```
long bpf_clone_redirect(struct sk_buff *skb, u32 ifindex, u64 flags)
    Description
            Clone and redirect the packet associated to *skb* to another
            net device of index *ifindex*. Both ingress and egress
            interfaces can be used for redirection. The **BPF F INGRESS**
            value in *flags* is used to make the distinction (ingress path
            is selected if the flag is present, egress path otherwise).
            This is the only flag supported for now.
            In comparison with **bpf_redirect**\ () helper,
            **bpf_clone_redirect**\ () has the associated cost of
            duplicating the packet buffer, but this can be executed out of
            the eBPF program. Conversely, **bpf_redirect**\ () is more
            efficient, but it is handled through an action code where the
            redirection happens only after the eBPF program has returned.
            A call to this helper is susceptible to change the underlying
            packet buffer. Therefore, at load time, all checks on pointers
            previously done by the verifier are invalidated and must be
            performed again, if the helper is used in combination with
            direct packet access.
    Return
            0 on success, or a negative error in case of failure. Positive
            error indicates a potential drop or congestion in the target
            device. The particular positive error codes are not defined.
```

Multicast Delivery



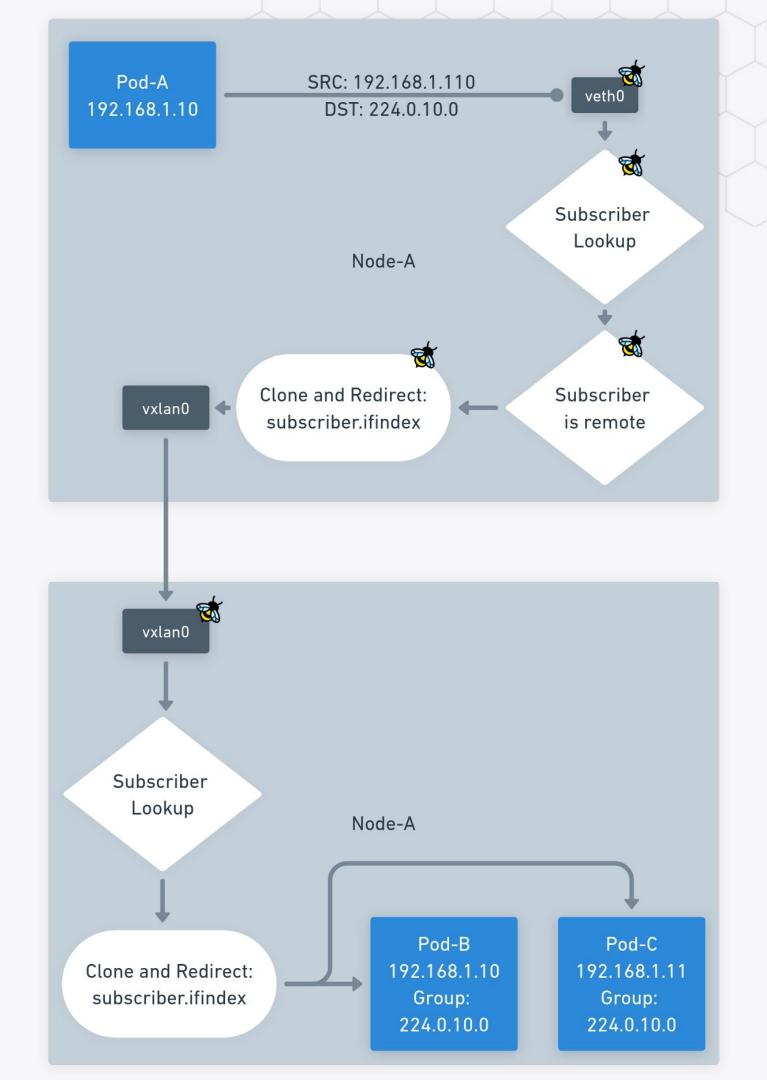
Local Multicast Delivery

- Pod-A send multicast packet to 224.0.10.0 group address.
- Packet arrives at eBPF datapath (ingress@veth0 in host netns)
- eBPF determines packet's DST is a multicast group address
- eBPF performs subscriber lookup for group
 - One (or more) local subscribers are found
 - Clone and redirect to the subscriber's ifindex.



Remote Multicast Delivery

- Use VXLAN to deliver multicast traffic between nodes
 - Required, Linux does not route
 Multicast without a multicast routing daemon.
- Similar to local delivery but we redirect to the remote node.
- On reception, perform local multicast delivery.



Multicast Delivery with eBPF: Identify Multicast Traffic

- Host-Side Pod's Veth
- IN_MULTICAST macro determines of destination address is multicast
 - Checks if address is CLASS D.
- Perform a tailcall to tail_mcast_ep_delivery
- tail_mcast_ep_delivery implements
 local and remote delivery

Multicast Delivery with eBPF: Multicast Delivery

- Lookup subscribers.
- Rewrite MAC
- Multicast traffic has specific MAC format.
- for_each_map_elem with callback__mcast_ep_delivery

```
tailcall to perform multicast packet replication and delivery.
 * when this call is entered we should already know that the packet is destined
 * for a multicast group and the multicast group exists in
 * cilium_mcast_group_outer_v4_map
 _section_tail(CILIUM_MAP_CALLS, CILIUM_CALL_MULTICAST_EP_DELIVERY)
int tail_mcast_ep_delivery(struct __ctx_buff *ctx)
        struct _mcast_ep_delivery_ctx cb_ctx = {
                .ctx = ctx,
                .ret = 0
        union macaddr mac = {0};
        void *data, *data_end;
        struct iphdr *ip4 = 0;
        void *sub_map = 0;
        if (!revalidate_data(ctx, &data, &data_end, &ip4))
                return DROP_INVALID;
        sub_map = map_lookup_elem(&cilium_mcast_group_outer_v4_map, &ip4->daddr);
        if (!sub_map)
                return DROP_INVALID;
       mcast_encode_ipv4_mac(&mac, (__u8 *)&ip4->daddr);
        eth_store_daddr(ctx, &mac.addr[0], 0);
        for_each_map_elem(sub_map, __mcast_ep_delivery, &cb_ctx, 0);
        return send_drop_notify(ctx,
                                UNKNOWN_ID,
                                UNKNOWN ID.
                                TRACE_EP_ID_UNKNOWN,
                                DROP MULTICAST HANDLED,
                                CTX_ACT_DROP,
                                METRIC_INGRESS);
```

Multicast Delivery with eBPF: Multicast Delivery Cont...

- Check if we are coming from overlay
 - Avoids a delivery loop
- If subscriber is remote
 - Set tunnel key info
 - sub->ifindex will be the vxlan device
- Clone and redirect to sub->ifindex
- Same procedure on receiving node but at vxlan device

```
static long __mcast_ep_delivery(__maybe_unused void *sub_map,
                                 __maybe_unused const __u32 *key,
                                 const struct mcast_subscriber_v4 *sub,
                                 struct _mcast_ep_delivery_ctx *cb_ctx)
        int ret = \theta;
        __u32 tunnel_id = WORLD_ID;
        __u8 from_overlay = 0;
struct bpf_tunnel_key tun_key = {0};
        if (!cb_ctx || !sub)
        if (!cb_ctx->ctx)
                return 1;
        if (!sub->ifindex)
                 return 1;
        from_overlay = (ctx_get_ingress_ifindex(cb_ctx->ctx) == ENCAP_IFINDEX);
        if (sub->flags & MCAST_SUB_F_REMOTE) {
                 if (from_overlay)
#ifdef ENABLE_ENCRYPTED_OVERLAY
                 * encryption via the tunnel ID.
                tunnel_id = ENCRYPTED_OVERLAY_ID;
#endif /* ENABLE_ENCRYPTED_OVERLAY */
                 tun_key.tunnel_id = tunnel_id;
                 tun_key.remote_ipv4 = bpf_ntohl(sub->saddr);
                tun_key.tunnel_ttl = IPDEFTTL;
                ret = ctx_set_tunnel_key(cb_ctx->ctx,
                                           TUNNEL KEY WITHOUT SRC IP,
                                           BPF_F_ZERO_CSUM_TX);
                if (ret < 0) {
                         cb_ctx->ret = ret;
                         return 1;
        ret = clone_redirect(cb_ctx->ctx, sub->ifindex, 0);
        if (ret != 0) {
                cb_ctx->ret = ret;
                return 1;
        return 0;
```



https://docs.cilium.io/en/stable/network/multicast/#enable-multicast

Code:

https://github.com/cilium/cilium/blob/main/bpf/lib/mcast.h