



Swisscom Network Analytics SRv6 Network Observability

17.03.2024, Thomas Graf — thomas.graf@swisscom.com *Picture: Apollo 8, December 24th 1968*

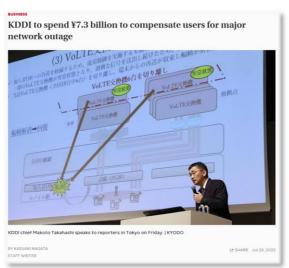


Nationwide Network Outages everywhere

Increasing in impact and duration - hinting Network Visibility deficiencies









Optus: Telecom boss Kelly Bayer Rosmarin quits after Australian outage



05 FEB 2023 | 08:23 AM UTC

Italy: TIM internet services interruption reported nationwide Feb. 5

TIM internet services interruption reported in Italy Feb. 5. Likely communication disruptions.

Informational Communications/technology Transportation ITA



Billions of users were unable to access Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp for hours while the social media giant scrambled to





"It is our duty to recognize service degradation before our customer does.

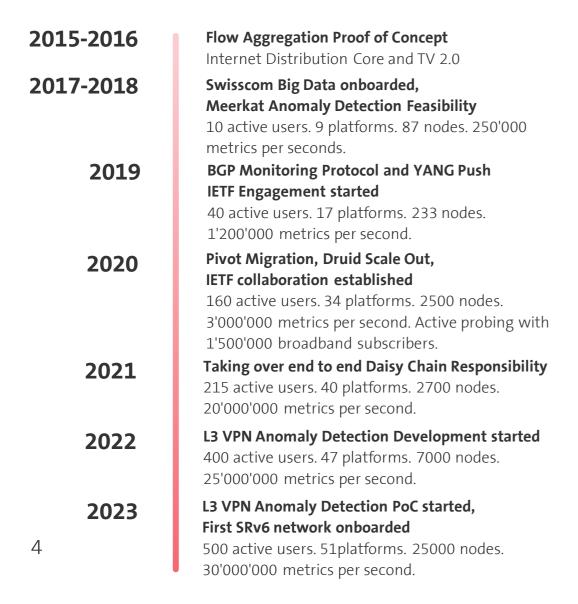
Why do we still often fail to be first?"

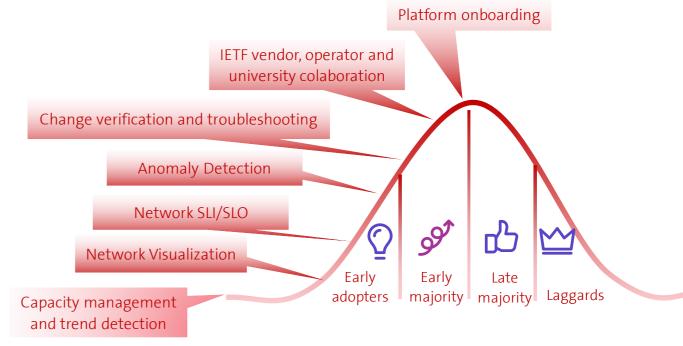




Network Analytics Transforms Swisscom DevOps Mindset

From device monitoring to network analytics with closed loop operation





Key Points

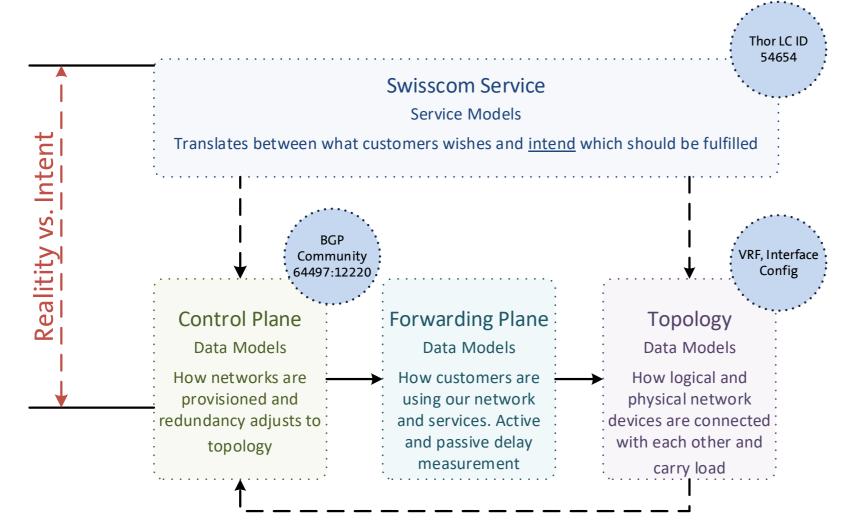
- > From bottom up to mainstream. From IETF to Swisscom DevOps teams.
- > From network verification and troubleshooting to visualization with Anomaly Detection and Network SLI/SLO
- > From capacity management to trend detection
- > From network automation to closed loop operation
- MPLS-SR data plane visibility since 2021, SRv6 since 2023.



Network Data Collection with Network Telemetry

Structured metrics enable informed decision-making





Network Telemetry:

A data collection framework where the network device pushes its metrics to Big Data. Defined in RFC 9232.

Data Modelling:

- > Key for Big Data correlation to understand and react in the right context
 - > Are interface drops bad?
 - > How should we react?





Por inventoried L2 or L3 VPNs, Network Anomaly Detection constantly monitors and detects any network or device topology changes, along with their associated forwarding consequences for customers. Notifications are sent to the Network Operation Center before the customer is aware of service disruptions. It offers operational metrics for in-depth analysis, allowing to understand on which platform the problem originates and facilitates problem resolution.



Answers

What changed and when, on which connectivity service, and how does it impact the customers?



Focuses

Provides meaningful connectivity service impact information before customer is aware of and support in root-cause analysis.



Data Mesh

Consumes real-time Forwarding-Plane, Control-Plane and Management-Plane metrics and produces analytical alerts.



Direction

From connectivity service to network platform.





Network Service Level Indicator and Objective

For inventoried L2 or L3 VPNs, **forwarding-plane loss** and latency objectives (SLO) are established for each Quality of Service (QoS) class in accordance with customer Service Level Agreement (SLA) criteria. Notifications of Service Level Objective (SLO) violations, along with the state of controlplane redundancy, management-plane interface and BGP peering, are raised when forwarding-plane loss or latency objectives are at risk of not being met. These notifications assist network reliability engineering and collaborating relevant platform team to quickly identify and resolve the issue.



Answers

How much budget is left on a connectivity service? Does redundancy exist on all connection points? Is it safe to perform a maintenance window?



Focuses

Service connectivity state and how far state objectives are being fulfilled or not.



Data Mesh

Consumes real-time Forwarding-Plane, Control-Plane and Management-Plane metrics and produces analytical SLI metrics and SLO alerts..



Direction

From connectivity service to network platform.



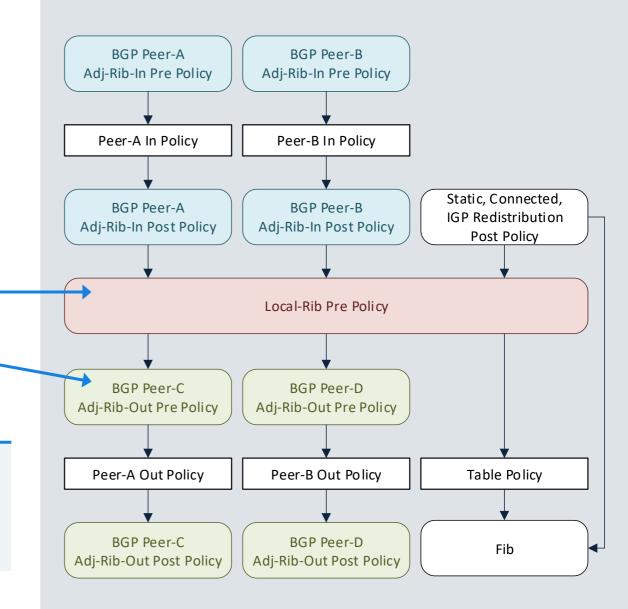
BMP Covering all RIB's

Extends much needed RIB coverage

BGP route exposure without BMP is a challenge of the first order:

- Only best path is exposed (missing best-external and ECMP routes)
- > Next-hop attribute not preserved all the time
- > Filtering between RIB's not visible
- Support for Local RIB in BGP Monitoring Protocol https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc9069
- Support for Adj-RIB-Out in BGP Monitoring Protocol https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc8671

Adj-RIB-Out an RFC since November 2019. **Local RIB since February 2022**. Juniper, Huawei and Nokia have public releases available supporting both. Cisco has test code available but haven't released yet.





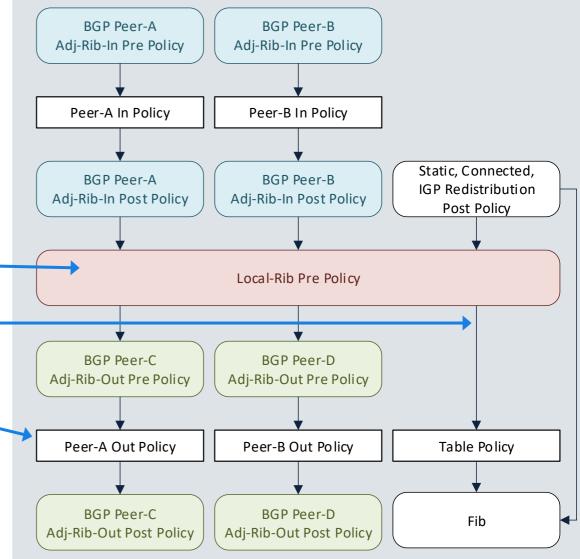
BMP with extended TLV support

Brings visibility into FIB's and route-policies

Knowing all the routes in all the RIB's brings the new challenge

- > That we don't know how they are being used in the FIB/RIB (which one is best, best-external, ECMP, backup)
- > That we don't know which route-policy permitted/denied/changed which prefix/attribute
- TLV support for BMP Route Monitoring and Peer Down Messages https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-grow-bmp-tlv
- Support for Enterprise-specific TLVs in the BGP Monitoring Protocol https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-lucente-grow-bmp-tlv-ebit
- BMP Extension for Path Marking TLV https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-cppy-grow-bmp-path-marking-tlv
- Logging of routing events in BGP Monitoring Protocol https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-grow-bmp-rel

For IETF 110 Hackathon, IETF lab network with Big Data integration has been further extended to collaborate development research with ETHZ, INSA, Cisco, Huawei and pmacct (open source data-collection by Paolo Lucente).





IPFIX Covering Segment Routing

For MPLS-SR, SRv6 and On-path Delay

SRv6 is commonly standardized, network vendors implementations are available and network operators are at various stages in their deployments, missing data-plane visibility though.

Segment Routing coverage in IPFIX brings visibility for:

- > Which routing protocol provided the label or IPv6 Segment in the SR domain.
- > The active Segment where the packet is forwarded to in the SRv6 Domain.
- > The Segment List where the packet is going to be forwarded throughout the SRv6 Domain.
- > The Endpoint Behavior describing how the packet is being forwarded in the SRv6 Domain.
- > The Min, Max and Average On-path delay at each hop in the SR domain.

Export of MPLS Segment Routing Label Type Information in IPFIX

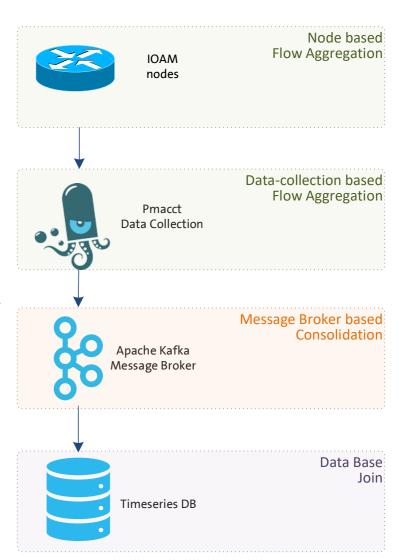
https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc9160

Export of Segment Routing IPv6 Information in IPFIX

https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc9487

Export of Forwarding Path Delay in IPFIX

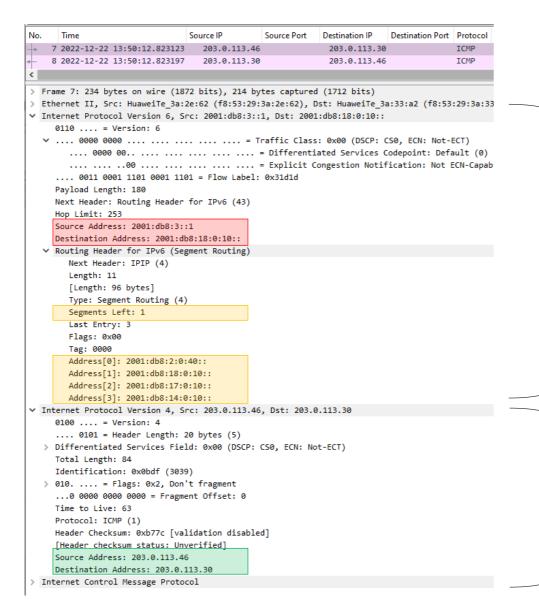
https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-opsawg-ipfix-on-path-telemetry





Segment Routing IPv6 Encapsulation

3 headers, one more then MPLS



> Provider data-plane

Divided into an IPv6 and Segment Routing Header.

The IPv6 header shows from which PE to which next-hop it is being forwarded. The Segment Routing Header the list of segments this packet needs to pass through and points to the active segment.

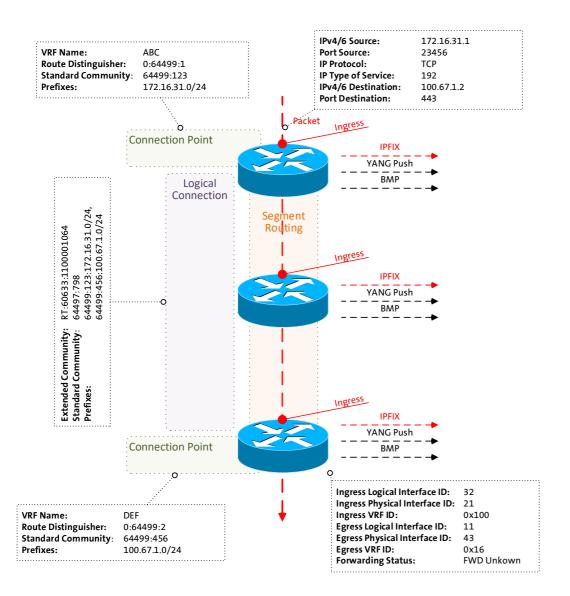
> Customer data-plane

This is what we receive from the customer and encapsulate for transport through the SRv6 core.



Monitoring L3 SRv6 VPN's with IPFIX and BGP Monitoring Protocol

From L3 VPN Inventory to Realtime Network Analytics



- > From an inventory perspective, Connection Points are connected through Logical Connections.
- > From a BGP control-plane perspective, IPv4/6 unicast prefixes in VRF's are tagged with BGP standard communities.
 - One BGP standard community to identify the Logical Connection. One BGP standard community to identify each Connection Point.
 - > When IPv4/6 prefixes are exported from VRF's, a BGP route-distinguisher, BGP extended community route-targets, a SRv6 VPN SID for the IPv6 next-hop is allocated.
- > From a forward-plane perspective, when IPv4/6 unicast traffic is received from the edge at the SRv6 PE, a lookup is performed, the SRv6 VPN SID is obtained and IPv6 nexthop is added when forwarded to the core.
- > Daisy collects SRv6 provider data-plane, IPv4/6 unicast customer data-plane in IPFIX and at provider edge BGP VPNv4/6 unicast to perform real-time data correlation.



Trace Path and Measure Delay in IPv6 Data Plane

Use Case Overview



Traffic to Measure

Active probing addresses what-if and Hybrid Type 1 passive customer packet delay and loss SLI.



IPv6 Data Plane Applicability

Applied to IPv6 Destination or Hop-by-Hop options header and observable on transit and encapsulation or decapsulation node only.



Delay Measurement

Measure on-path or round-trip delay observed on network node or outside network node.



Data Aggregation

Delay measurement and trace dimensions are control and management plane aggregated on network node (postcard) or accumulated in the IPv6 packet across the forwarding path (passport) and aggregated outside network node.



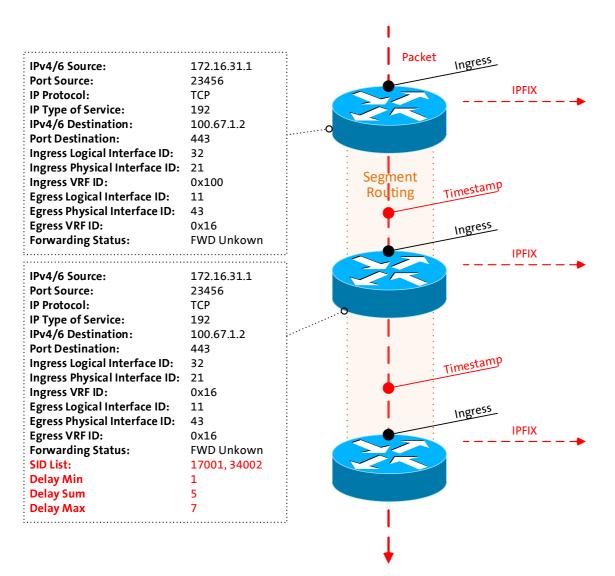
Network Dimensions

Ability to trace packet forwarding path to describe which interfaces, queues, nodes and domains the flow was forwarded through due to which IP next-hop, top MPLS label or active SRv6 SID. Ability to trace a single or group of flows with same properties.



Measure delay and give network context

Enabling a statistical network delay view



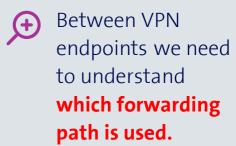
- > Packets are captured ingress with an optional sampler, dataplane dimensions extracted, enriched with device and controlplane dimensions and added with a unique flow ID to a flow cache on the node for aggregation.
- > The data-plane dimensions answers **which packet**. The controlplane **which service**. The device dimensions **where in the network**.
- In case of On-Path Delay Measurement, a timestamp and optionally a direct export tag is added to the packet header when entering the IOAM domain.
- > Each subsequent packet for the same flow increases byte and packet count. Each new flow creates a new flow ID in the flow cache.
- In case of On-Path Delay Measurement, At each node in transit (postcard) or only at the last node (passport), the delay is calculated by comparing the timestamp in the packet and when packet is received on the node. Delay is populated into the flow cache besides packet and byte count.



Trace Path and Measure Delay in IPv6 Data PlaneUse Case Applicability

	STAMP TWAMP Light	Path Tracing	Alternate Marking	Enhanced Alternate Marking	IOAM Trace Option Type	IOAM Proof of Transit	IOAM Edge to Edge	IOAM Direct Export
Active (what if) measurement	X	х						
Hybrid Type 1 (Connectivity SLI) measurement			x	x	x	x	х	х
Measure on-path delay	х	х	x	х	x	x	х	х
Measure round trip delay	х							
Delay measured on network node	х			х			х	х
Delay measured outside network node		х	х	х	x	х		
Trace domains being forwarded through					x	х		х
Verifies that specified forwarding path is used						х		
Trace nodes and interfaces being forwarded trough		x	x	х	x	x		x
Trace next-hop, top MPLS label or active SRv6 SID			х	х				x
Ability to trace single flows				Х				х
Applied to IPv6 Destination Options Header		х					х	
Applied to IPv6 HbH Options Header		х	х	х	x	х		х
Ability to aggregate on network node	х		х	х			х	х
In packet aggregate able		х			х	х		

Main Objectives



Between VPN
endpoints we need
to understand
where the delay is
being accumulated
and why.



Network Observability in SRv6 Status, Summary and Next Steps

Status

BGP Monitoring Protocol is BGP Address Family agnostic. **Enables visibility in the SRv6 overlay BGP control plane.**

RFC 9487 adds SRv6 dimensions in IPFIX entities. **Enables visibility in the SRv6 data plane.**draft-ietf-opsawg-ipfix-on-path-telemetry adds delay measurements in IPFIX entities. **Enables visibility into the on-path delay.**

RFC 9378 defines IOAM. RFC 9341 defines Alternate Marking. draft-gfz-opsawg-ipfix-alt-mark and draft-spiegel-ippm-ioam-rawexport adds Alternate Marking and IOAM dimensions in IPFIX. **Enables tracing visibility in the packet forwarding.**

Summary

The key asset of SRv6 is that at the source of the packet generation the forwarding path can be decided. To validate source routing, on-path visibility is a necessity. However, the protocols involved are still in development phase, major vendors did not implement, and no requirement document has been written by an operator yet. SRV6OPS could contribute by not only outlining the use cases, objectives and specifying the requirements but also feedback on implementations.

-> Do you recognize that the IETF community should also define requirements and use cases along with the protocol implementations?

