



## ECMP Load Balancing

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Equal-cost multi-path routing (ECMP) is a routing strategy where next-hop packet forwarding to a single destination can occur over multiple "best paths" which tie for top place in routing metric calculations. Multipath routing can be used in conjunction with most routing protocols, since it is a per-hop decision that is limited to a single router. It potentially offers substantial increases in bandwidth by load-balancing traffic over multiple paths.

Various routing protocols, including Open Shortest Path First (OSPF), Intermediate System to Intermediate System (ISIS), Enhanced Interior Gateway Routing Protocol (EIGRP), and Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) allow ECMP routing.

Load balancing between ECMP paths is performed on IOS-XE based CEF object called loadbalance.

### ECMP Per-Flow Load Balancing

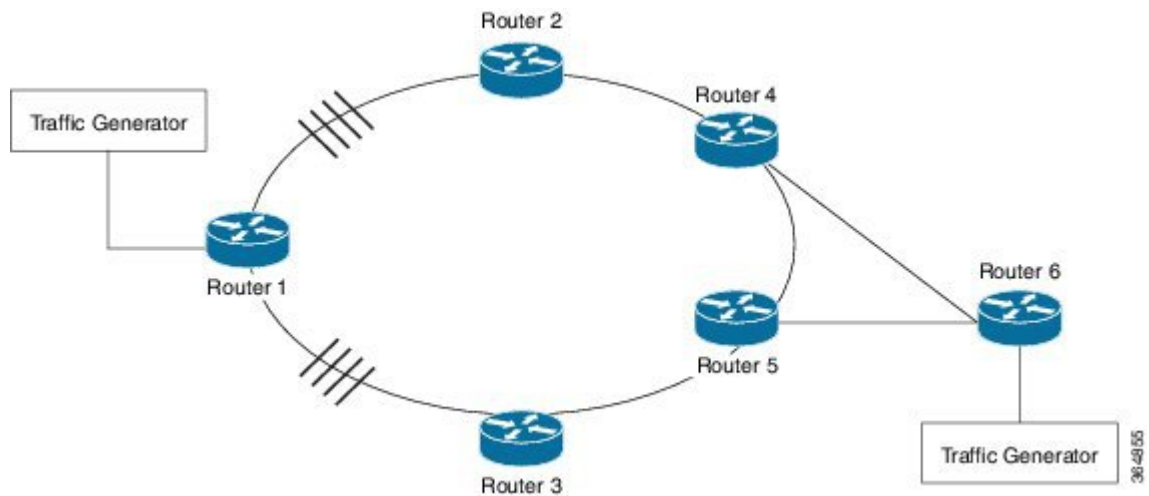
Load balancing is a forwarding mechanism that distributes traffic over multiple links based on certain parameters. ECMP Per-Flow Load Balancing distributes packets across multiple links based on Layer 3 routing information. If the router discovers multiple paths to a destination, the routing table is updated with multiple entries for that destination. Per-flow load balancing allows the router to use multiple paths to achieve load sharing across multiple source-destination host pairs. Packets for a given source-destination host pair are guaranteed to take the same path, even if multiple paths are available. Traffic streams destined for different pairs tend to take different paths.

### Benefits of Per-Flow Load Balancing

- Incoming data traffic is evenly distributed over multiple equal-cost connections.

- Incoming data traffic is evenly distributed over multiple equal-cost connections member links within a bundle interface.

**Figure 1: ECMP Load Balancing with MPLS Enabled**



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## Finding Feature Information

Your software release may not support all the features documented in this module. For the latest caveats and feature information, see [Bug Search Tool](#) and the release notes for your platform and software release. To find information about the features documented in this module, and to see a list of the releases in which each feature is supported, see the feature information table.

Use Cisco Feature Navigator to find information about platform support and Cisco software image support. To access Cisco Feature Navigator, go to [www.cisco.com/go/cfn](http://www.cisco.com/go/cfn). An account on Cisco.com is not required.

## Restrictions for ECMP Load Balancing

- Both 4 ECMP and 8 ECMP paths are supported.
- Load balancing is supported on global IPv4 and IPv6 traffic. For global IPv4 and IPv6 traffic, the traffic distribution can be equal among the available 8 links.
- Per packet load balancing is not supported.
- Label load balancing is supported.
- BGP multi-path is *not* supported with ECMP.

- BGP multi-path with PIC Edge is *not* supported
- When BGP PIC is configured, the L3VPN prefixes scale reduces by 1/4th of the supported value (Supported scale value/4), for better convergence value at the PIC core. For example, for RSP1A the supported L3VPN scale is 2000, if 4 ECMP path with PIC is enabled, then the maximum supported scale value is reduced to 5000 (20000/4).

## Configuring ECMP Load Balancing

Perform the following steps to configure ECMP load balancing.

### SUMMARY STEPS

1. **enable**
2. **configure terminal**
3. **platform loadbalance max-paths 8**
4. **exit**

### DETAILED STEPS

	Command or Action	Purpose
<b>Step 1</b>	<b>enable</b>  <b>Example:</b> Device> enable	Enables privileged EXEC mode.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enter your password if prompted.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 2</b>	<b>configure terminal</b>  <b>Example:</b> Device# configure terminal	Enters global configuration mode.
<b>Step 3</b>	<b>platform loadbalance max-paths 8</b>  <b>Example:</b> Device(config)# platform loadbalance max-paths 8	Configures the loadbalance maximum paths. Select <b>Yes</b> to save the configuration and reload the router.  <b>Note</b> ISIS by default supports only 4 paths. To increase ISIS max-paths, use the command <b>config-maximum-paths 8</b> under router ISIS. IGP by default supports only 4 paths. To increase IGP max-paths, use the command <b>config-maximum-paths 8</b> under respective IGP (OSPF and ISIS) process.
<b>Step 4</b>	<b>exit</b>  <b>Example:</b> Device(config)#exit	Returns to privileged EXEC mode.

# Configuration Examples for ECMP Load Balancing

This section shows sample configurations for ECMP load balancing.

## Example: Configuring ECMP Load balancing

The following is a sample configuration for ECMP load balancing.

```
Router# show run-configuration | in platform loadbalance
platform loadbalance max-paths 8

Router# show ip cef 200.0.0.0 detail
200.0.0.0/24, epoch 2, per-destination sharing
  local label info: global/266
  nexthop 21.1.1.2 GigabitEthernet0/1/3 label 141
  nexthop 21.1.6.1 GigabitEthernet0/0/0 label 269
  nexthop 21.2.1.2 GigabitEthernet0/1/0 label 141
  nexthop 21.2.6.1 GigabitEthernet0/0/1 label 269
  nexthop 21.3.1.2 GigabitEthernet0/1/1 label 141
  nexthop 21.3.6.1 GigabitEthernet0/0/2 label 269
  nexthop 21.4.1.2 GigabitEthernet0/0/4 label 141
  nexthop 21.4.6.1 GigabitEthernet0/0/7 label 269
Router#

Router# show interface GigabitEthernet 0/1/3 | in output rate
  5 minute output rate 548000 bits/sec, 1009 packets/sec
Router# show interface GigabitEthernet 0/0/0 | in output rate
  5 minute output rate 547000 bits/sec, 1008 packets/sec
Router# show interface GigabitEthernet 0/1/0 | in output rate
  5 minute output rate 539000 bits/sec, 992 packets/sec
Router# show interface GigabitEthernet 0/0/1 | in output rate
  5 minute output rate 539000 bits/sec, 991 packets/sec
Router# show interface GigabitEthernet 0/1/1 | in output rate
  5 minute output rate 540000 bits/sec, 993 packets/sec
Router# show interface GigabitEthernet 0/0/2 | in output rate
  5 minute output rate 540000 bits/sec, 993 packets/sec
Router# show interface GigabitEthernet 0/0/4 | in output rate
  5 minute output rate 548000 bits/sec, 1009 packets/sec
Router# show interface GigabitEthernet 0/0/7 | in output rate
  5 minute output rate 548000 bits/sec, 1009 packets/sec
Router#
```

## Verifying ECMP Load Balancing

Use the following commands to verify ECMP load balancing.

```
Building configuration...

Current configuration : 10710 bytes
!
! Last configuration change at 00:29:01 IST Sat Jan 17 2015
!
version 15.5
no service pad
service timestamps debug datetime msec
service timestamps log datetime msec
platform loadbalance max-paths 8
no platform punt-keepalive disable-kernel-core
platform bfd-debug-trace 1
platform tcam-parity-error enable
platform tcam-threshold alarm-frequency 1
platform shell
!
hostname RM-PE1
!
```

MPLS: Layer 3 VPNs Configuration Guide, Cisco IOS XE Release 3S (Cisco ASR 900 Series)

```
!  
interface Loopback101  
ip address 65.1.101.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback102  
ip address 65.1.102.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback103  
ip address 65.1.103.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback104  
ip address 65.1.104.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback105  
ip address 65.1.105.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback106  
ip address 65.1.106.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback107  
ip address 65.1.107.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback108  
ip address 65.1.108.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback109  
ip address 65.1.109.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback110  
ip address 65.1.110.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback111  
ip address 65.1.111.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback112  
ip address 65.1.112.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback113  
ip address 65.1.113.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback114  
ip address 65.1.114.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback115  
ip address 65.1.115.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback116  
ip address 65.1.116.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback117  
ip address 65.1.117.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback118  
ip address 65.1.118.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback119  
ip address 65.1.119.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback120  
ip address 65.1.120.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback121  
ip address 65.1.121.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback122  
ip address 65.1.122.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback123  
ip address 65.1.123.1 255.255.255.255  
!  
interface Loopback124  
ip address 65.1.124.1 255.255.255.255  
!
```

```
interface Loopback125
ip address 65.1.125.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback126
ip address 65.1.126.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback127
ip address 65.1.127.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback128
ip address 65.1.128.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback129
ip address 65.1.129.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback130
ip address 65.1.130.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback131
ip address 65.1.131.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback132
ip address 65.1.132.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback133
ip address 65.1.133.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback134
ip address 65.1.134.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback135
ip address 65.1.135.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback136
ip address 65.1.136.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback137
ip address 65.1.137.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback138
ip address 65.1.138.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback139
ip address 65.1.139.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback140
ip address 65.1.140.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback141
ip address 65.1.141.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback142
ip address 65.1.142.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback143
ip address 65.1.143.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback144
ip address 65.1.144.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback145
ip address 65.1.145.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback146
ip address 65.1.146.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback147
ip address 65.1.147.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback148
ip address 65.1.148.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback149
```

```

ip address 65.1.149.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback150
ip address 65.1.150.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback151
ip address 65.1.151.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback152
ip address 65.1.152.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback153
ip address 65.1.153.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback154
ip address 65.1.154.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback155
ip address 65.1.155.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback156
ip address 65.1.156.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback157
ip address 65.1.157.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback158
ip address 65.1.158.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback159
ip address 65.1.159.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface Loopback160
ip address 65.1.160.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/0
ip address 21.1.6.2 255.255.255.0
ip router isis core-agg
negotiation auto
mpls ip
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/1
ip address 21.2.6.2 255.255.255.0
ip router isis core-agg
negotiation auto
mpls ip
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/2
ip address 21.3.6.2 255.255.255.0
ip router isis core-agg
negotiation auto
mpls ip
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/3
no ip address
shutdown
negotiation auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/4
ip address 21.4.1.1 255.255.255.0
ip router isis core-agg
shutdown
negotiation auto
mpls ip
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/5
no ip address
shutdown
negotiation auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/6
ip address 51.1.0.1 255.255.255.0
negotiation auto

```



```

!
interface GigabitEthernet0/0/7
ip address 21.4.6.2 255.255.255.0
ip router isis core-agg
shutdown
negotiation auto
mpls ip
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1/0
ip address 21.2.1.1 255.255.255.0
ip router isis core-agg
negotiation auto
mpls ip
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1/1
ip address 21.3.1.1 255.255.255.0
ip router isis core-agg
negotiation auto
mpls ip
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1/2
no ip address
shutdown
negotiation auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1/3
ip address 21.1.1.1 255.255.255.0
ip router isis core-agg
negotiation auto
mpls ip
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1/4
no ip address
shutdown
negotiation auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1/5
no ip address
shutdown
negotiation auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1/6
no ip address
shutdown
negotiation auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0/1/7
no ip address
shutdown
negotiation auto
!
interface GigabitEthernet0
vrf forwarding Mgmt-intf
ip address 7.43.21.101 255.255.0.0
shutdown
negotiation auto
!
router isis core-agg
net 49.0000.0000.1111.00
is-type level-1
metric-style wide
fast-flood 10
ip route priority high tag 10000
set-overload-bit on-startup 360
max-lsp-lifetime 65535
lsp-refresh-interval 65000
spf-interval 5 50 200
prc-interval 5 50 200
lsp-gen-interval 5 50 200
log-adjacency-changes
passive-interface Loopback0
passive-interface Loopback101
passive-interface Loopback102

```

```

passive-interface Loopback103
passive-interface Loopback104
passive-interface Loopback105
passive-interface Loopback106
passive-interface Loopback107
passive-interface Loopback108
passive-interface Loopback109
passive-interface Loopback110
passive-interface Loopback111
passive-interface Loopback112
passive-interface Loopback113
passive-interface Loopback114
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passive-interface Loopback120
passive-interface Loopback121
passive-interface Loopback122
passive-interface Loopback123
passive-interface Loopback124
passive-interface Loopback125
passive-interface Loopback126
passive-interface Loopback127
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passive-interface Loopback147
passive-interface Loopback148
passive-interface Loopback149
passive-interface Loopback150
passive-interface Loopback151
passive-interface Loopback152
passive-interface Loopback153
passive-interface Loopback154
passive-interface Loopback155
passive-interface Loopback156
passive-interface Loopback157
passive-interface Loopback158
passive-interface Loopback159
passive-interface Loopback160
maximum-paths 8
mpls ldp sync
!
router bgp 100
  bgp router-id 100.111.14.1
  bgp log-neighbor-changes
  neighbor ABR peer-group
  neighbor ABR remote-as 100
  neighbor ABR update-source Loopback0
  neighbor 100.111.10.1 peer-group ABR
  neighbor 100.111.10.1 shutdown
  neighbor 100.111.10.2 peer-group ABR
  neighbor 100.111.10.2 shutdown
!
address-family ipv4

```

```

    bgp additional-paths install
    network 100.111.14.1 mask 255.255.255.255 route-map set-PAN-comm
    neighbor ABR send-community both
    neighbor ABR next-hop-self all
    neighbor ABR route-map deny-PAN-loopbacks in
    neighbor ABR send-label
    neighbor 100.111.10.1 activate
    neighbor 100.111.10.2 activate
  exit-address-family
  !
  address-family vpnv4
    neighbor ABR send-community both
    neighbor 100.111.10.1 activate
    neighbor 100.111.10.2 activate
  exit-address-family
  !
  address-family ipv4 vrf test
    redistribute connected
  exit-address-family
  !
  ip forward-protocol nd
  !
  ip bgp-community new-format
  ip community-list 1 permit 100:100
  no ip http server
  no ip http secure-server
  ip route vrf Mgmt-intf 10.0.0.0 255.0.0.0 7.43.0.1
  ip route vrf Mgmt-intf 202.153.144.0 255.255.255.0 7.43.0.1
  !
  !
  route-map set-service-nh permit 10
  !
  route-map deny-PAN-loopbacks deny 10
  match community 1
  !
  route-map deny-PAN-loopbacks permit 20
  !
  route-map set-PAN-comm permit 10
  set community 100:100
  !
  mpls ldp router-id Loopback0
  !
  !
  control-plane
  !
  alias exec psh reques plat soft sys shell
  alias exec shpp6 sh platform hard pp act fea cef da ipv6
  alias exec shpp sh platform hard pp act fea cef da ipv4
  !
  line con 0
  exec-timeout 0 0
  logging synchronous
  stopbits 1
  line aux 0
  stopbits 1
  line vty 0
  exec-timeout 0 0
  password lab
  login
  line vty 1 4
  login
  !
  !
  !
end

```

