

Introduction to OSPF

ISP Workshops



These materials are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>)

Last updated 3rd October 2017

Acknowledgements

- This material originated from the Cisco ISP/IXP Workshop Programme developed by Philip Smith & Barry Greene
- Use of these materials is encouraged as long as the source is fully acknowledged and this notice remains in place
- Bug fixes and improvements are welcomed
 - Please email *workshop (at) bgp4all.com*

Philip Smith

OSPF

- Open Shortest Path First
- Open:
 - Meaning an Open Standard
 - Developed by IETF (OSPF Working Group) for IP – RFC1247
 - Current standard is OSPFv2 (RFC2328)
- Shortest Path First:
 - Edsger Dijkstra's algorithm for producing shortest path tree through a graph
 - Dijkstra, E. W. (1959). "A note on two problems in connexion with graphs". *Numerische Mathematik* **1**: 269–271

OSPF

- Known as a Link State Routing Protocol
 - The other link state routing protocol is ISIS
 - Each node in the network computes the map of connectivity through the network
- The other type of Routing Protocol is Distance Vector
 - Like EIGRP or RIP
 - Each node shares its view of the routing table with other nodes

OSPF

- Routers with OSPF enabled on them look for neighbouring routers also running OSPF
 - Using the “Hello” protocol
 - The “Hello” packet includes the **subnet mask**, list of known neighbours, and details such as “**hello interval**” and “**router dead interval**”
 - Hello interval – how often the router will send Hellos
 - Router dead interval – how long to wait before deciding router has disappeared
 - The values of “hello interval”, “router dead interval” and subnet mask **must** match on both neighbours
 - When a neighbouring router responds with matching details, a **neighbour relationship** is formed

OSPF Neighbour Relationships

- A relationship is formed between selected neighbouring routers for the purpose of exchanging routing information
 - This is called an **ADJACENCY**
- Not every pair of neighbouring routers become adjacent
 - On multi-access networks (e.g. ethernet), only selected routers form adjacencies

OSPF Adjacencies

- ❑ Once an adjacency is formed, neighbours share their link state information
 - Information goes in a **Link State Packet** (LSP)
 - LSPs sent to a neighbour are known as **Link State Announcements** (LSA)
- ❑ New information received from neighbours is used to compute a new view of the network
- ❑ On a link failure
 - New LSPs are flooded
 - The routers recompute the routing table

OSPF across a network

- ❑ All routers across the network form neighbour relationships with their directly attached neighbours
- ❑ Each router computes the routing table
- ❑ Once each router has the same view of the network, the network has **converged**
- ❑ The IGP design for a network is crucially important to ensure **scalability** and **rapid convergence**
- ❑ Generally: **the fewer the prefixes, the faster the convergence**

OSPF Areas

- OSPF has the concept of areas
 - All networks must have an area 0, the “default” area
 - Areas are used to scale OSPF for large networks
 - There are many types of areas, to suit many different types of infrastructure and topologies
 - Most small to medium networks (up to ~300 routers) can happily use a single area

OSPF

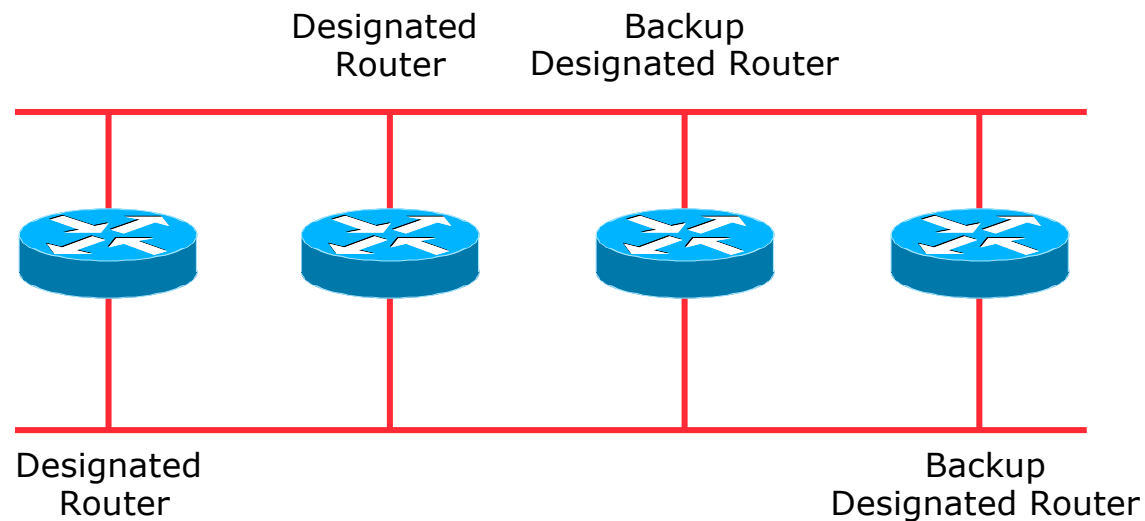
- OSPFv2 is for IPv4
 - For carrying IPv4 prefixes only
- OSPFv3 is for IPv6
 - For carrying IPv6 prefixes only
 - Based on OSPFv2 but is specifically for IPv6
 - Documented in RFC5340
 - Is totally independent of OSPFv2
- Configuration concepts and syntax are very similar
 - (There are subtle differences/improvements)

Links in OSPF

- Two types of links in OSPF:
 - Point-to-point link
 - Only one other router on the link, forming a point-to-point adjacency
 - Multi-access network (e.g. ethernet)
 - Potential for many other routers on the network, with several other adjacencies
- OSPF in multi-access networks has optimisations to aid scaling
 - Two routers are elected to originate the LSAs for the whole multi-access network
 - Called “**Designated Router**” and “**Backup Designated Router**”
 - Other routers on the multi-access network form adjacencies with the DR and BDR

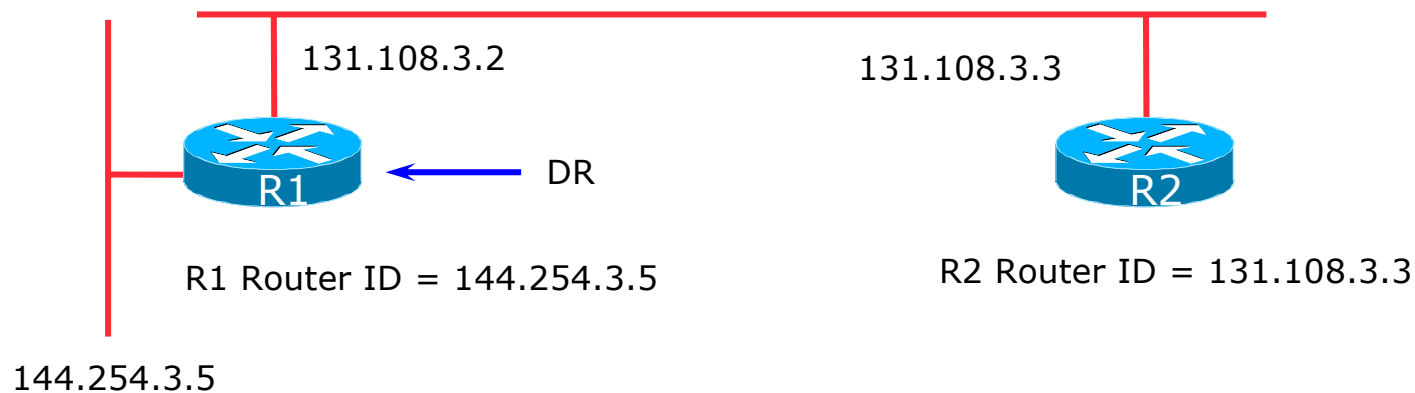
Designated Router

- There is ONE designated router per multi-access network
 - Generates network link advertisements
 - Assists in database synchronization
 - Scales OSPF for multi-access (ethernet) networks



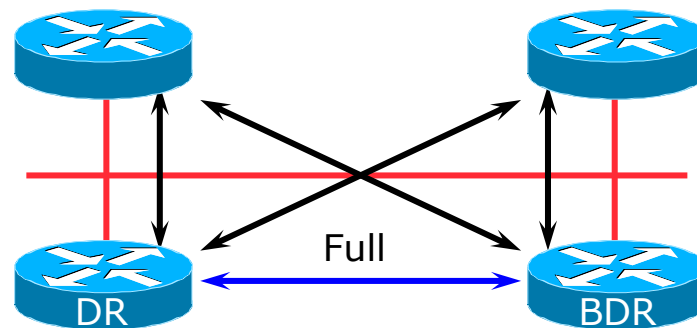
Selecting the Designated Router

- ❑ Configured priority (per interface)
 - Configure high priority on the routers to be the DR/BDR
- ❑ Else priority determined by highest router ID
 - Router ID is 32 bit integer
 - Set manually, otherwise derived from the loopback interface IPv4 address, otherwise the highest IPv4 address on the router



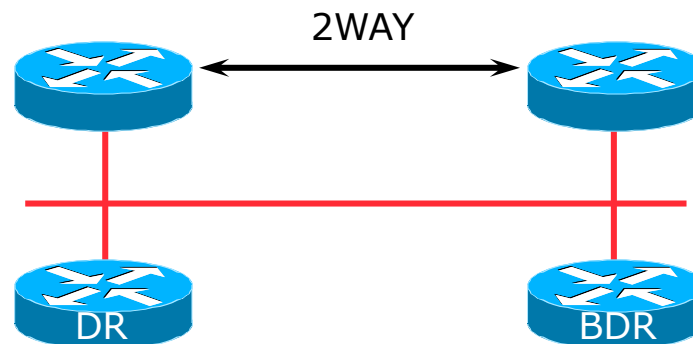
Adjacencies on multi-access networks

- DR and BDR form FULL adjacencies:
 - With each other
 - With all other routers on the multi-access network
 - Databases are synchronised
 - LSAs propagate along adjacencies



Adjacencies on multi-access networks

- Neighbour relationships between routers which are not DR or BDR are called 2WAY
 - They see each other in HELLO packets but do not exchange topology information
 - The neighbours then are not adjacent



Adjacencies: Examples

- To find adjacency state, use:

```
show ip[v6] ospf neighbor
```

- Point-to-Point link

| Neighbor ID | Pri | State | Dead Time | Address | Interface |
|--------------|-----|-------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| 10.10.15.236 | 0 | FULL/ | - | 10.10.15.16 | Serial1/0 |

- FULL: other router to DR/BDR

| Neighbor ID | Pri | State | Dead Time | Address | Interface |
|--------------|-----|----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 10.10.15.225 | 1 | FULL/BDR | 00:00:35 | 10.10.15.2 | FastEth0/0 |
| 10.10.15.226 | 1 | FULL/DR | 00:00:35 | 10.10.15.3 | FastEth0/0 |

- 2WAY: other router to other router

| Neighbor ID | Pri | State | Dead Time | Address | Interface |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| 10.10.15.227 | 1 | 2WAY/DROTHER | 00:00:35 | 10.10.15.4 | FastEth0/0 |

OSPF on Cisco IOS

- Starting OSPFv2 (IPv4) in Cisco's IOS

```
router ospf 42
```

- Where "42" is the process ID

- Starting OSPFv3 (IPv6) in Cisco's IOS

```
ipv6 router ospf 42
```

- Where "42" is the process ID

- OSPF process ID is unique to the router

- Gives possibility of running multiple instances of OSPF on one router
- Process ID is not passed between routers in an AS
- Some ISPs configure the process ID to be the same as their BGP Autonomous System Number

Adding interfaces to OSPF

□ OSPF interface configuration:

- When OSPF is configured for a subnet or on an interface, the router will automatically attempt to find neighbours on that subnet or interface

```
router ospf 42
  passive-interface default
```

- ISP Best Practice is to disable this behaviour:
And then explicitly enable the interface to allow OSPF to search for neighbours as required:

```
router ospf 42
  no passive-interface Gigabit 4/0
```

OSPF on Cisco IOS

- Enabling OSPF on an interface does **two** things:
 1. Enables the Hello protocol for forming neighbour relationships and adjacencies with other routers connected to that interface
 2. Announces the interface subnet(s) into OSPF
- Care needed
 - Must avoid enabling the Hello protocol on untrusted networks
 - (e.g. those outside your Autonomous System)

OSPFv2 on Cisco IOS

- Forming neighbour relationships
 - OSPFv2 needs to be activated on the interface the neighbour relationship is desired on:

```
interface Gigabit 4/0
  ip address 192.168.1.1 255.255.255.252
  ip ospf 42 area 0
!
router ospf 42
  passive-interface default
  no passive-interface Gigabit 4/0
!
```

OSPFv3 on Cisco IOS

- Forming neighbour relationships
 - OSPFv3 needs to be activated on the interface the neighbour relationship is desired on:

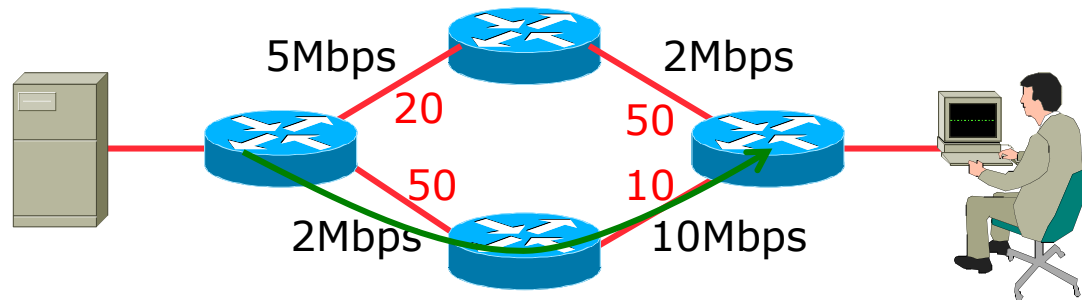
```
interface Gigabit 4/0
  ipv6 address 2001:DB8:10:FE::4/64
  ipv6 ospf 42 area 0
!
ipv6 router ospf 42
  passive-interface default
  no passive-interface Gigabit 4/0
!
```

OSPF interface costs

- ❑ Cisco IOS sets the interface cost automatically
 - Formula used: $\text{cost} = 10^8 / \text{interface bandwidth}$
 - ❑ Which is fine for interfaces up to 100Mbps
- ❑ Many operators develop their own interface cost strategy
 - ```
ip ospf cost 100
```
  - Sets interface cost to 100
  - Care needed as the sum of costs determines the best path through the network
- ❑ OSPF chooses lowest cost path through a network
- ❑ OSPF will load balance over paths with equal cost to the same destination

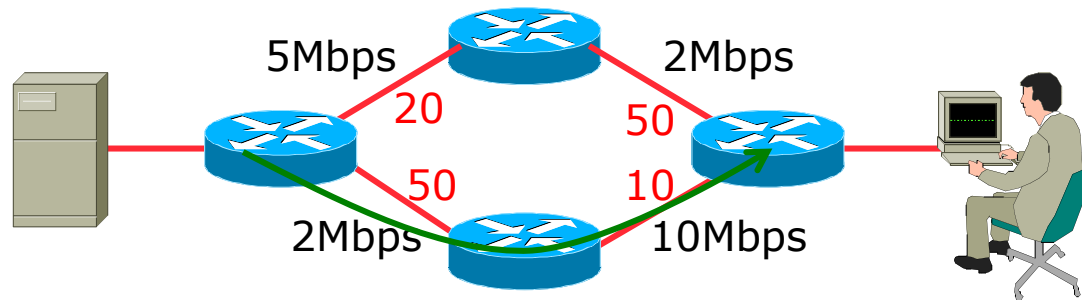
# OSPF Metric Calculation

- Best path/lowest cost = 60

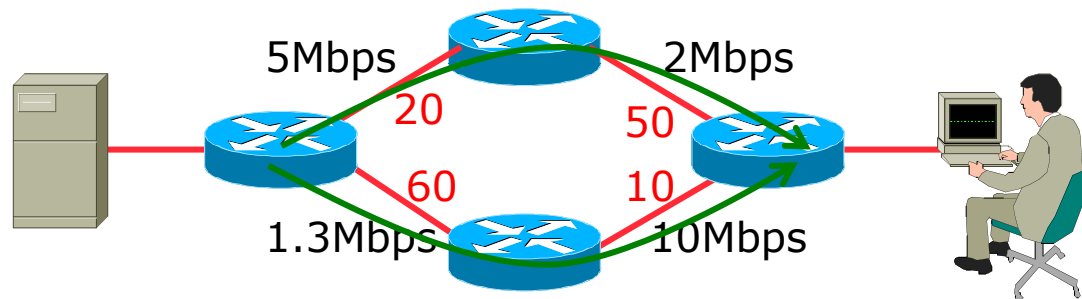


# OSPF Metric Calculation

- Best path/lowest cost = 60



- Equal cost paths = 70





# OSPF Neighbour Authentication

---

- Neighbour authentication is highly recommended
  - Prevents unauthorised routers from forming neighbour relationships and potentially compromising the network
- OSPFv2 – Authentication is built-in
  - There are two types:
    - Plain text password
    - MD5 hash
- OSPFv3 – uses standard IP security header
  - There are two types:
    - MD5 hash
    - SHA1

# OSPFv2 – Neighbour Authentication

---

- Configuring authentication for area 0
  - Interfaces still need the authentication key, e.g. POS4/0

```
router ospf 42
 area 0 authentication message-digest
 !
interface Gigabit 4/0
 ip ospf message-digest-key <key-no> md5 <passwd>
 !
```

- Configuring authentication per interface:

```
interface Gigabit 4/0
 ip ospf authentication message-digest
 ip ospf message-digest-key <key-no> md5 <passwd>
 !
```

# OSPFv3 – Neighbour Authentication

---

- Configuring authentication for all interfaces in area 0
  - The key is included in the command turning on authentication for area 0:

```
ipv6 router ospf 42
 area 0 authentication ipsec spi 256 md5 <passwd>
!
```

- Configuring authentication per interface:

```
interface Gigabit 4/0
 ipv6 ospf authentication ipsec spi 256 md5 <passwd>
!
```

# Originating a Default Route

---

- Originating a default route into OSPF:

```
router ospf 42
 default-information originate
```

- Which will originate a default route into OSPF only if a default route exists in the RIB

```
router ospf 42
 default-information originate always
```

- Which will always originate a default route into OSPF even if no default is in the RIB
- There are equivalent commands for OSPFv3

# OSPF on Point-to-Point Ethernet

---

- OSPF on point-to-point ethernet:
  - DR and BDR election is not needed on a point to point link – so it is disabled, which is more efficient

```
interface gigabit 2/0
ip ospf network point-to-point
```

- There are equivalent commands for OSPFv3

# Conclusion

---

- OSPF is a Link State Routing Protocol
- Quick and simple to get started
  - But has a myriad of options and features to cover almost all types of network topology
  - ISPs keep their OSPF design **SIMPLE**
  - >400 routers in a single area is entirely feasible

# Introduction to OSPF



ISP Workshops