Interdomain Routing
Reading: Sections P&D 4.3.(3,4)

EE122: Intro to Communication Networks
Fall 2006 (MW 4:00-5:30 in Donner 155)
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Materials with thanks to Jennifer Rexford, Ion Stoica and colleagues at Princeton and UC Berkeley

Outline

• Why does BGP exist?
  – What is interdomain routing and why do we need it?
  – Why does BGP look the way it does?

• How does BGP work?
  – Boring details
  – Yuck

  *pay more attention to the “why” than the “how”*
Routing

• Provides paths between networks

• Previous lecture presented two routing designs
  – link-state
  – distance vector

• Previous lecture assumed single domain
  – all routers have same routing metric (shortest path)
  – no privacy issues, no policy issues

Internet is more complicated.....

• Internet not just unstructured collection of networks

• Internet is comprised of a set of “autonomous systems” (ASes)
  – independently run networks, some are commercial ISPs
  – currently around 20,000 ASes

• ASes are sometimes called “domains”
  – hence "interdomain routing"
This adds another level in hierarchy

- Three levels in logical routing hierarchy
  - networks: reaches individual hosts
  - intradomain: routes between networks
  - interdomain: routes between ASes

- Need a protocol to route between domains
  - BGP is current standard

- Different kinds of unification
  - IP unifies network technologies
  - BGP unifies network organizations
**Who speaks BGP?**

- Two types of routers
  - Border router (Edge), Internal router (Core)

**Purpose of BGP**

- Share connectivity information across ASes
**I-BGP and E-BGP**

![Diagram of I-BGP and E-BGP](image)

**Border router**
- R

**Internal router**
- I

**In more detail**

1. Provide internal reachability (IGP) ------
2. Learn routes to external destinations (eBGP) ➔
3. Distribute externally learned routes internally (iBGP) ➔
4. Select closest egress (IGP) ------
Rest of lecture...

• Motivate why BGP is the way it is
  – driven by two salient aspects of AS structure

• Discuss some problems with interdomain routing

• Discuss (briefly!) what a new BGP might look like

• Explain some of BGP’s details
  – not fundamental, just series of specific design decisions

#1 ASes are autonomous

• Want to choose their own internal routing protocol
  – different algorithms and metrics

• Want freedom to route based on policy
  – “my traffic can’t be carried over my competitor’s network”
  – “I don’t want to carry transit traffic through my network”
  – not expressible as Internet-wide “shortest path”!

• Want to keep their connections and policies private
  – would reveal business relationships, network structure
#2 ASes have business relationships

- Three kinds of relationships between ASes
  - AS A can be AS B’s *customer*
  - AS A can be AS B’s *provider*
  - AS A can be AS B’s *peer*

- Business implications
  - customer pays provider
  - peers don’t pay each other

- Policy implications
  - “When sending traffic, I prefer to route through customers over peers, and peers over providers”
  - “I don’t carry traffic from one provider to another provider”

AS-level topology

- Destinations are IP prefixes (e.g., 12.0.0.0/8)
- Nodes are Autonomous Systems (ASes)
  - internals are hidden
- Links are connections & business relationships
What routing algorithm can we use?

- Key issues are *policy* and *privacy*

- Can’t use shortest path
  - domains don’t have any shared metric
  - *policy choices might not be shortest path*

- Can’t use link state
  - would have to flood policy preferences and topology
  - *would violate privacy*

What about distance vector?

- Does not reveal any connectivity information

- But is designed to compute shortest paths

- Extend distance vector to allow policy choices?
Path-Vector Routing

- Extension of distance-vector routing
  - Support flexible routing policies
  - Faster loop detection (no count-to-infinity)
- Key idea: advertise the entire path
  - Distance vector: send *distance metric* per dest d
  - Path vector: send the *entire path* for each dest d

Faster Loop Detection

- Node can easily detect a loop
  - Look for its own node identifier in the path
    - E.g., node 1 sees itself in the path “3, 2, 1”
- Node can simply discard paths with loops
  - E.g., node 1 simply discards the advertisement
Flexible Policies

- Each node can apply local policies
  - Path selection: Which path to use?
  - Path export: Which paths to advertise?

- Examples
  - Node 2 may prefer the path “2, 3, 1” over “2, 1”
  - Node 1 may not let node 3 hear the path “1, 2”

Selection vs Export

- Selection policies
  - determines which paths I want my traffic to take

- Export policies
  - determines whose traffic I am willing to carry

- Notes:
  - any traffic I carry will follow the same path my traffic takes, so there is a connection between the two
  - from a protocol perspective, decisions can be arbitrary
    - can depend on entire path (advantage of PV approach)
Illustration

**Route advertisement**

**Route selection**

**Selection:** controls traffic out of the network

**Export:** controls traffic into the network

Examples of Standard Policies

- **Transit network:**
  - Selection: prefer customer to peer to provider
  - Export: only export customer’s routes to peers

- **Multihomed (nontransit) network:**
  - Export: Don’t export routes for other domains
  - Selection: pick primary over backup
Any Questions?

Issues with Path-Vector Policy Routing

• Reachability

• Security

• Performance

• Lack of isolation

• Policy oscillations
Reachability

- In normal routing, if graph is connected then reachability is assured

- With policy routing, this does not always hold

Security

- An AS can claim to serve a prefix that they actually don’t have a route to (blackholing traffic)
  - problem not specific to policy or path vector
  - important because of AS autonomy

- Fixable: make ASes “prove” they have a path
Performance

- BGP designed for policy not performance

- “Hot Potato” routing common but suboptimal
  - AS wants to hand off the packet as soon as possible

- 20% of paths inflated by at least 5 router hops

- Not clear this is a significant problem

Lack of Isolation

- If there is a change in the path, the path must be re-advertised to every node upstream of the change

- Distance-vector provides more isolation
Persistent Oscillations due to Policies

Depends on the interactions of policies

We are back to where we started!

Policy Oscillations (cont’d)

• Policy autonomy vs network stability
  – focus of much recent research

• If there is no global constraint, then any degree of autonomy can lead to oscillations
  – only “shortest path” is guaranteed to be stable

• However, if policies follow normal business practices, stability is guaranteed
  – lack of cycles in business graph a global constraint
Redesigning BGP

• If we keep all the current constraints, not many alternative design options (at high-level)
  – Which constraints might we lift?

• Are most policies really private?
  – could use link-state for some of the routing

• Do ASes really need to see the entire path?
  – could hide some of the path, reducing updates

• Can AS structure be integrated into addressing?

Any Questions?
Rest of lecture....

• BGP details

• Stay awake as long as you can.....

Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)

• Interdomain routing protocol for the Internet
  – Prefix-based path-vector protocol
  – Policy-based routing based on AS Paths
  – Evolved during the past 15 years

• 1989 : BGP-1 [RFC 1105]
  – Replacement for EGP (1984, RFC 904)
• 1990 : BGP-2 [RFC 1163]
• 1991 : BGP-3 [RFC 1267]
• 1995 : BGP-4 [RFC 1771]
  – Support for Classless Interdomain Routing (CIDR)
BGP Routing Table

```
ner-routes>show ip bgp
BGP table version is 6128791, local router ID is 4.2.34.165
Status codes: s suppressed, d damped, h history, * valid, > best, i - internal
Origin codes: i - IGP, e - EGP, ? - incomplete

Network          Next Hop          Metric LocPrf Weight Path
* i3.0.0.0          4.0.6.142           1000     50      0 701 80 i
* i4.0.0.0          4.24.1.35              0    100      0 i
* i12.3.21.0/23     192.205.32.153         0     50      0 7018 4264 6468
* e128.32.0.0/16    192.205.32.153         0     50      0 7018 4264 6468 25 e
```

BGP Operations

- Establish session on TCP port 179
- Exchange all active routes
- Exchange incremental updates
  - While connection is ALIVE exchange route UPDATE messages
Incremental Protocol

• A node learns multiple paths to destination
  – Stores all of the routes in a routing table
  – Applies policy to select a single active route
  – … and may advertise the route to its neighbors

• Incremental updates
  – Announcement
    • Upon selecting a new active route, add node id to path
    • … and (optionally) advertise to each neighbor
  – Withdrawal
    • If the active route is no longer available
    • … send a withdrawal message to the neighbors

BGP Route

• Destination prefix (e.g., 128.112.0.0/16)

• Routes have attributes, including
  – AS path (e.g., “7018 88”)
  – Next-hop IP address (e.g., 12.127.0.121)
### ASPATH Attribute

- **AS 1239** (Sprint) - 128.112.0.0/16
  - AS Path = 1239 7018 88

- **AS 1755** (Ebene) - 128.112.0.0/16
  - AS Path = 1239 7018 88

- **AS 7018** (AT&T) - 128.112.0.0/16
  - AS Path = 7018 88

- **AS 1129** (Global Access) - 128.112.0.0/16
  - AS Path = 1239 7018 88

- **AS 12654** (RIPE NCC RIS project)
  - 128.112.0.0/16
  - AS Path = 7018 88

- **AS 3549** (Global Access) - 128.112.0.0/16
  - AS Path = 3549 7018 88

### BGP Path Selection

#### Simplest case
- Shortest AS path
- Arbitrary tie break
- AS 12654 prefers path through Global Crossing

#### But, BGP is not limited to shortest-path routing
- Policy-based routing
- Could choose longer path
Other Routing Attributes

• Origin, MED, Local Preference,....

• Origin:
  – Who originated the announcement?
  – Where was a prefix injected into BGP?
  – IGP, BGP or Incomplete (often used for static routes)

Multi-Exit Discriminator (MED)

• When ASes interconnected via 2 or more links

• AS announcing prefix sets MED (AS2 in picture)

• AS receiving prefix uses MED to select link

• A way to specify how close a prefix is to the link it is announced on
Local Preference

Policy choice between different AS paths

The higher the value the more preferred

Carried by IBGP, local to the AS.

BGP table at AS4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>AS Path</th>
<th>Local Pref</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>140.20.1.0/24</td>
<td>AS3 AS1</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140.20.1.0/24</td>
<td>AS2 AS1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choosing Best Route (simplified)

- Choose AS path with highest LOCAL_PREF
  - Preference-based routing
  - Tie: select route with shortest hop-count

- Multiple egress choices for same neighboring AS:
  - choose path with min MED value

- Among IGP paths, choose one with lowest cost
  - Finally use router ID to break the tie.
BGP Route Processing

Open ended programming. Constrained only by vendor configuration language

Apply Policy = filter routes & tweak attributes

Based on Attribute Values

Best Routes

Apply Policy = filter routes & tweak attributes

Receive BGP Updates

Apply Import Policies

Best Route Selection

Best Route Table

Apply Export Policies

Transmit BGP Updates

Install forwarding Entries for best Routes.

IP Forwarding Table

AS is Not a Single Node

- AS path length can be misleading
  - An AS may have many router-level hops

BGP says that path 4 1 is better than path 3 2 1
An AS is Not a Single Node

- Multiple routers in an AS
  - Need to distribute BGP information within the AS
  - Internal BGP (iBGP) sessions between routers

![Diagram showing AS1 and AS2 with eBGP and iBGP sessions]

Internal BGP and Local Preference

- Example
  - Both routers prefer the path through AS 100 on the left
  - … even though the right router learns an external path

![Diagram showing AS 100, AS 200, AS 300, AS 256 with Local Pref values]

Hot-Potato (Early-Exit) Routing

- **Hot-potato routing**
  - Each router selects the closest egress point
  - … based on the path cost in intradomain protocol

- Somewhat in conflict with MED

Joining BGP and IGP Information

- **Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)**
  - Announces reachability to external destinations
  - Maps a destination prefix to an egress point
    - 128.112.0.0/16 reached via 192.0.2.1

- **Interior Gateway Protocol (IGP)**
  - Used to compute paths within the AS
  - Maps an egress point to an outgoing link
    - 192.0.2.1 reached via 10.1.1.1
Some Routers Don’t Need BGP

- Customer that connects to a single upstream ISP
  - The ISP can introduce the prefixes into BGP
  - … and the customer can simply default-route to the ISP

Summary

- BGP is essential to the Internet
  - ties different organizations together

- Poses fundamental challenges....
  - leads to use of path vector approach

- ...and myriad details