

Configuring Default, Primary, and Preferred Addresses and Interfaces

The routing platform has a default address and a primary interface, and interfaces have primary and preferred addresses.

The *default address* of the routing platform is used as the source address on unnumbered interfaces. The routing protocol process tries to pick the default address as the routing platform ID, which is used by protocols, including OSPF and internal BGP (IBGP).

The *primary interface* for the routing platform is the interface that packets go out when no interface name is specified and when the destination address does not imply a particular outgoing interface.

An interface's *primary address* is used by default as the local address for broadcast and multicast packets sourced locally and sent out the interface. An interface's *preferred address* is the default local address used for packets sourced by the local routing platform to destinations on the subnet.

The default address of the routing platform is chosen using the following sequence:

1. The primary address on the loopback interface **lo0** that is not **127.0.0.1** is used.
2. The primary address on the primary interface is used.

To configure these addresses and interfaces, you can do the following:

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Configuring the Primary Interface for the Routing Platform

The *primary interface* for the routing platform has the following characteristics:

- It is the interface that packets go out when you type a command such as `ping 255.255.255.255`—that is, a command that does not include an interface name (there is no interface **type-0/0/0.0** qualifier) and where the destination address does not imply any particular outgoing interface.
- It is the interface on which multicast applications running locally on the routing platform, such as Session Announcement Protocol (SAP), do group joins by default.
- It is the interface from which the default local address is derived for packets sourced out an unnumbered interface if there are no non-127 addresses configured on the loopback interface, **lo0**.

By default, the multicast-capable interface with the lowest-index address is chosen as the primary interface. If there is no such interface, the point-to-point interface with the lowest index address is chosen. Otherwise, any interface with an address

could be picked. In practice, this means that, on the routing platform, the `fxp0` interface is picked by default.

To configure a different interface to be the primary interface, include the `primary` statement:

```
[Unresolved xref];
```

You can include this statement at the following hierarchy levels:

- [edit interfaces *interface-name* unit *logical-unit-number* family *family*]
- [edit logical-systems *logical-system-name* interfaces *interface-name* unit *logical-unit-number* family *family*]

Configuring the Primary Address for an Interface

The *primary address* on an interface is the address that is used by default as the local address for broadcast and multicast packets sourced locally and sent out the interface. For example, the local address in the packets sent by a `ping interface so-0/0/0.0 255.255.255.255` command is the primary address on interface `so-0/0/0.0`. The primary address flag also can be useful for selecting the local address used for packets sent out unnumbered interfaces when multiple non-127 addresses are configured on the loopback interface, `lo0`. By default, the primary address on an interface is selected as the numerically lowest local address configured on the interface.

To set a different primary address, include the `primary` statement:

```
[Unresolved xref];
```

You can include this statement at the following hierarchy levels:

- [edit interfaces *interface-name* unit *logical-unit-number* family *family* address *address*]
- [edit logical-systems *logical-system-name* interfaces *interface-name* unit *logical-unit-number* family *family* address *address*]

Configuring the Preferred Address for an Interface

The *preferred address* on an interface is the default local address used for packets sourced by the local routing platform to destinations on the subnet. By default, the numerically lowest local address is chosen. For example, if the addresses `172.16.1.1/12`, `172.16.1.2/12`, and `172.16.1.3/12` are configured on the same interface, the preferred address on the subnet (by default, `172.16.1.1`) would be used as a local address when you issue a `ping 172.16.1.5` command.

To set a different preferred address for the subnet, include the `preferred` statement:

```
preferred;
```

You can include this statement at the following hierarchy levels:

- [edit interfaces *interface-name* unit *logical-unit-number* family *family* address *address*]

- [edit logical-systems *logical-system-name* interfaces *interface-name* unit *logical-unit-number* family *family* address *address*]

