

Extended DHCP Relay Agent Overview

You can configure extended DHCP relay options on the router and enable the router to function as a DHCP relay agent. A DHCP relay agent forwards DHCP request and reply packets between a DHCP client and a DHCP server. You can use DHCP relay in carrier edge applications such as video/IPTV to obtain configuration parameters, including an IP address, for your subscribers.

For more information about how to use the DHCP relay agent in a video/IPTV application, see the *JUNOS Feature Guide*.



NOTE: The extended DHCP relay agent options configured with the `dhcp-relay` statement are incompatible with the DHCP/BOOTP relay agent options configured with the `bootp` statement. As a result, you cannot enable both the extended DHCP relay agent and the DHCP/BOOTP relay agent on the router at the same time.

For information about the DHCP/BOOTP relay agent, see the *JUNOS Policy Framework Configuration Guide*.

To configure the extended DHCP relay agent on the router, include the `dhcp-relay` statement at the [edit forwarding-options] hierarchy level. See the [edit forwarding-options dhcp-relay] Hierarchy Level for the complete DHCP relay agent syntax.

You can also include the `dhcp-relay` statement at the following hierarchy levels:

- [edit logical-systems *logical-system-name* forwarding-options]
- [edit logical-systems *logical-system-name* routing-instances *routing-instance-name* forwarding-options]
- [edit routing-instances *routing-instance-name* forwarding-options]

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Interaction Among the DHCP Relay Agent, DHCP Client, and DHCP Servers

In a typical carrier edge network configuration, the DHCP client is on the subscriber's computer, and the DHCP relay agent is configured on the router between the DHCP client and one or more DHCP servers.

The following steps describe, at a high level, how the DHCP client, DHCP relay agent, and DHCP server interact in a configuration that includes two DHCP servers.

1. The DHCP client sends a discover packet to find a DHCP server in the network from which to obtain configuration parameters for the subscriber, including an IP address.
2. The DHCP relay agent receives the discover packet and forwards copies to each of the two DHCP servers. The DHCP relay agent then creates an entry in its internal client table to keep track of the client's state.
3. In response to receiving the discover packet, each DHCP server sends an offer packet to the client. The DHCP relay agent receives the offer packets and forwards them to the DHCP client.
4. On receipt of the offer packets, the DHCP client selects the DHCP server from which to obtain configuration information. Typically, the client selects the server that offers the longest lease time on the IP address.
5. The DHCP client sends a request packet that specifies the DHCP server from which to obtain configuration information.
6. The DHCP relay agent receives the request packet and forwards copies to each of the two DHCP servers.
7. The DHCP server requested by the client sends an acknowledgement (ACK) packet that contains the client's configuration parameters.
8. The DHCP relay agent receives the ACK packet and forwards it to the client.
9. The DHCP client receives the ACK packet and stores the configuration information.
10. If configured to do so, the DHCP relay agent installs a host route and Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) entry for this client.
11. After establishing the initial lease on the IP address, the DHCP client and the DHCP server use unicast transmission to negotiate lease renewal or release. The DHCP relay agent "snoops" on all of the packets unicast between the client and the server that pass through the router to determine when the lease for this client has expired or been released. This process is referred to as lease shadowing or passive snooping.

- Related Topics**
- Access and Access-Internal Routes for DHCP Subscriber Management
 - Dynamic Profile Attachment to DHCP Subscriber Interfaces Overview
 - Using External AAA Authentication Services with DHCP
 - DHCP Relay Proxy Overview
 - Graceful Routing Engine Switchover
 - Verifying and Managing DHCP Relay Configuration
 - Tracing Extended DHCP Operations
 - Example: Minimum DHCP Relay Agent Configuration
 - Example: DHCP Relay Agent Configuration with Multiple Clients and Servers

- Example: Using Option 60 Strings to Forward DHCP Client Traffic
- Example: Using Option 60 Strings to Drop DHCP Client Traffic

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