



Junos[®] OS

Routing Protocols Overview



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Junos® OS Routing Protocols Overview

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Documentation and Release Notes

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Using the Examples in This Manual

If you want to use the examples in this manual, you can use the **load merge** or the **load merge relative** command. These commands cause the software to merge the incoming configuration into the current candidate configuration. The example does not become active until you commit the candidate configuration.

If the example configuration contains the top level of the hierarchy (or multiple hierarchies), the example is a *full example*. In this case, use the **load merge** command.

If the example configuration does not start at the top level of the hierarchy, the example is a *snippet*. In this case, use the **load merge relative** command. These procedures are described in the following sections.

Merging a Full Example

To merge a full example, follow these steps:

1. From the HTML or PDF version of the manual, copy a configuration example into a text file, save the file with a name, and copy the file to a directory on your routing platform.

For example, copy the following configuration to a file and name the file **ex-script.conf**. Copy the **ex-script.conf** file to the **/var/tmp** directory on your routing platform.

```
system {
  scripts {
    commit {
      file ex-script.xml;
    }
  }
}
interfaces {
  fxp0 {
    disable;
    unit 0 {
      family inet {
        address 10.0.0.1/24;
      }
    }
  }
}
```

2. Merge the contents of the file into your routing platform configuration by issuing the **load merge** configuration mode command:

```
[edit]
user@host# load merge /var/tmp/ex-script.conf
load complete
```

Merging a Snippet

To merge a snippet, follow these steps:

1. From the HTML or PDF version of the manual, copy a configuration snippet into a text file, save the file with a name, and copy the file to a directory on your routing platform.

For example, copy the following snippet to a file and name the file **ex-script-snippet.conf**. Copy the **ex-script-snippet.conf** file to the **/var/tmp** directory on your routing platform.

```
commit {
  file ex-script-snippet.xml; }
```


PART 1

Overview

- [Understanding IP Routing on page 3](#)
- [Overview of IPv6 Routing on page 25](#)

CHAPTER 1

Understanding IP Routing

- [Routing Databases Overview on page 3](#)
- [Routing Instances Overview on page 8](#)
- [Route Preferences Overview on page 12](#)
- [Understanding Route Preference Values \(Administrative Distance\) on page 16](#)
- [Understanding BGP Path Selection on page 17](#)
- [Equal-Cost Paths and Load Sharing Overview on page 22](#)
- [Routing Protocol Process Overview for EX Series Switches on page 22](#)

Routing Databases Overview

Routing is the transmission of packets from a source to a destination address. A routing protocol determines the path by which the packets are forwarded, shares information with immediate neighbor devices and other devices in the network, and adjusts to changing network conditions.

To use the routing capabilities of a Juniper Networks device, you must understand the fundamentals of IP routing and the routing protocols that are primarily responsible for the transmission of unicast traffic. To understand this topic, you need a basic understanding of IP addressing and TCP/IP.

The Junos[®] operating system (Junos OS) maintains two databases for routing information:

- **Routing table**—Contains all the routing information learned by all routing protocols.
- **Forwarding table**—Contains the routes actually used to forward packets through the router.

In addition, the interior gateway protocols (IGPs), IS-IS, and OSPF maintain link-state databases.

This section includes the following topics:

- [Routing Protocol Databases on page 4](#)
- [Junos OS Routing Tables on page 4](#)
- [Networks and Subnetworks on page 5](#)
- [Forwarding Tables on page 6](#)

interface routes into more than one routing table, applying different routing policies when exporting the same route to different peers, and providing greater flexibility with incongruent multicast topologies.

Each routing table is identified by a name, which consists of the protocol family followed by a period and a small, nonnegative integer. The protocol family can be **inet** (Internet), **iso** (ISO), or **mpls** (MPLS). The following names are reserved for the default routing tables maintained by the Junos OS:

- **inet.0**—Default IP version 4 (IPv4) unicast routing table
- **inet6.0**—Default IP version 6 (IPv6) unicast routing table
- **instance-name.inet.0**—Unicast routing table for a particular routing instance
- **inet.1**—Multicast forwarding cache
- **inet.2**—Unicast routes used for multicast reverse path forwarding (RPF) lookup
- **inet.3**—MPLS routing table for path information
- **mpls.0**—MPLS routing table for label-switched path (LSP) next hops



NOTE: For clarity, this topic contains general discussions of routing tables as if there were only one table. However, when it is necessary to distinguish among the routing tables, their names are explicitly used.

Networks and Subnetworks

Large groups of machines that are interconnected and can communicate with one another form networks. Typically, networks identify large systems of computers and devices that are owned or operated by a single entity. Traffic is routed between or through the networks as data is passed from host to host.

Figure 1 on page 6 shows a simple network of routers.

- Related Documentation**
- [Junos OS VPNs Library for Routing Devices](#)
 - [Junos OS Layer 2 Switching and Bridging Library](#)
 - [instance-type](#)

Route Preferences Overview

For unicast routes, the Junos OS routing protocol process uses the information in its routing table, along with the properties set in the configuration file, to choose an *active route* for each destination. While the Junos OS might know of many routes to a destination, the active route is the preferred route to that destination and is the one that is installed in the forwarding table and used when actually routing packets.

The routing protocol process generally determines the active route by selecting the route with the lowest preference value. The preference value is an arbitrary value in the range from 0 through 4,294,967,295 ($2^{32} - 1$) that the software uses to rank routes received from different protocols, interfaces, or remote systems.

The preference value is used to select routes to destinations in external autonomous systems (ASs) or routing domains; it has no effect on the selection of routes within an AS (that is, within an interior gateway protocol [IGP]). Routes within an AS are selected by the IGP and are based on that protocol's metric or cost value.

This section includes the following topics:

- [Autonomous Systems on page 12](#)
- [Alternate and Tiebreaker Preferences on page 12](#)
- [Multiple Active Routes on page 13](#)
- [Dynamic and Static Routing on page 13](#)
- [Route Advertisements on page 14](#)
- [Route Aggregation on page 15](#)

Autonomous Systems

A large network or collection of routers under a single administrative authority is termed an *autonomous system* (AS). Autonomous systems are identified by a unique numeric identifier that is assigned by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA). Typically, the hosts within an AS are treated as internal peers, and hosts in a peer AS are treated as external peers. The status of the relationship between hosts—internal or external—governs the protocol used to exchange routing information.

Alternate and Tiebreaker Preferences

The Junos OS provides support for alternate and tiebreaker preferences, and some of the routing protocols, including BGP and label switching, use these additional preferences. With these protocols, you can specify a primary route preference (by including the **preference** statement in the configuration), and a secondary preference that is used as a tiebreaker (by including the **preference2** statement).

Table 3: Default Route Preference Values (continued)

How Route Is Learned	Default Preference	Statement to Modify Default Preference
Redirects	30	–
Kernel	40	–
SNMP	50	–
Router discovery	55	–
RIP	100	<i>RIP preference</i>
RIPng	100	<i>RIPng preference</i>
PIM	105	<i>Multicast Protocols Feature Guide</i>
DVMRP	110	<i>Multicast Protocols Feature Guide</i>
Aggregate	130	<i>aggregate</i>
OSPF AS external routes	150	<i>OSPF external-preference</i>
IS-IS Level 1 external route	160	<i>IS-IS external-preference</i>
IS-IS Level 2 external route	165	<i>IS-IS external-preference</i>
BGP	170	<i>BGP preference, export, import</i>
MSDP	175	<i>Multicast Protocols Feature Guide</i>

In general, the narrower the scope of the statement, the higher precedence its preference value is given, but the smaller the set of routes it affects. To modify the default preference value for routes learned by routing protocols, you generally apply routing policy when configuring the individual routing protocols. You also can modify some preferences with other configuration statements, which are indicated in the table.

Related Documentation

- *Routing Policies, Firewall Filters, and Traffic Policers Feature Guide*

Understanding BGP Path Selection

For each prefix in the routing table, the routing protocol process selects a single best path. After the best path is selected, the route is installed in the routing table. The best path becomes the active route if the same prefix is not learned by a protocol with a lower (more preferred) global preference value, also known as the administrative distance. The algorithm for determining the active route is as follows:

By default, only the MEDs of routes that have the same peer autonomous systems (ASs) are compared. You can configure routing table path selection options to obtain different behaviors.

8. Prefer strictly internal paths, which include IGP routes and locally generated routes (static, direct, local, and so forth).
9. Prefer strictly external BGP (EBGP) paths over external paths learned through internal BGP (IBGP) sessions.
10. Prefer the path whose next hop is resolved through the IGP route with the lowest metric.



NOTE: A path is considered a BGP equal-cost path (and will be used for forwarding) if a tie-break is performed after the previous step. All paths with the same neighboring AS, learned by a multipath-enabled BGP neighbor, are considered.

BGP multipath does not apply to paths that share the same MED-plus-IGP cost yet differ in IGP cost. Multipath path selection is based on the IGP cost metric, even if two paths have the same MED-plus-IGP cost.

BGP compares the type of IGP metric before comparing the metric value itself in `rt_metric2_cmp`. For example, BGP routes that are resolved through IGP are preferred over discarded or rejected next-hops that are of type `RTM_TYPE_UNREACH`. Such routes are declared inactive because of their **metric-type**.

11. If both paths are external, prefer the currently active path to minimize route-flapping. This rule is not used if any one of the following conditions is true:
 - **path-selection external-router-id** is configured.
 - Both peers have the same router ID.
 - Either peer is a confederation peer.
 - Neither path is the current active path.
12. Prefer a primary route over a secondary route. A primary route is one that belongs to the routing table. A secondary route is one that is added to the routing table through an export policy.
13. Prefer the path from the peer with the lowest router ID. For any path with an originator ID attribute, substitute the originator ID for the router ID during router ID comparison.

process failure. This is important in a core routing platform because a single process failure does not cause the entire device to cease functioning.

Some of the common software processes include the routing protocol process (rpd) that controls the device's protocols, the device control process (dcd) that controls the device's interfaces, the management process (mgd) that controls user access to the device, the chassis process (chassisd) that controls the device's properties itself, and the Packet Forwarding Engine process (pfed) that controls the communication between the device's Packet Forwarding Engine and the Routing Engine. The kernel also generates specialized processes as needed for additional functionality, such as SNMP, the Virtual Router Redundancy Protocol (VRRP), and Class of Service (CoS).

The routing protocol process is a software process within the Routing Engine software, which controls the routing protocols that run on the device. Its functionality includes all protocol messages, routing table updates, and implementation of routing policies.

The routing protocol process starts all configured routing protocols and handles all routing messages. It maintains one or more routing tables, which consolidate the routing information learned from all routing protocols. From this routing information, the routing protocol process determines the active routes to network destinations and installs these routes into the Routing Engine's forwarding table. Finally, it implements routing policy, which allows you to control the routing information that is transferred between the routing protocols and the routing table. Using routing policy, you can filter and limit the transfer of information as well as set properties associated with specific routes.

- Related Documentation**
- *show system processes*
 - *show task*
 - *show task memory*

CHAPTER 2

Overview of IPv6 Routing

- [IPv6 Overview on page 26](#)
- [Understanding IPv6 on page 29](#)
- [Supported IPv6 Standards on page 33](#)
- [IPv6 Support on ACX Series Universal Metro Routers on page 36](#)

PART 2

Monitoring and Troubleshooting

- [Monitoring Networks on page 43](#)
- [Troubleshooting Network Issues on page 49](#)

PART 3

Configuration Statements and Operational Commands

- [Operational Commands on page 59](#)

CHAPTER 5

Operational Commands

- `show | display rfc5952`

