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3 **Resilient Interdomain Traffic Exchange:**
4 *BGP Security and DDoS Mitigation*

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6 Kotikalapudi Sriram
7 Doug Montgomery

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22 **Resilient Interdomain Traffic Exchange:**
23 *BGP Security and DDoS Mitigation*

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Kotikalapudi Sriram

Doug Montgomery

Advanced Network Technology Division

Information Technology Laboratory

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83 National Institute of Standards and Technology
84 Attn: Advanced Network Technologies Division, Information Technology Laboratory
85 100 Bureau Drive (Mail Stop 8920) Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8920
86 Email: sp800-189@nist.gov

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88

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99 government, and academic organizations.

100 **Abstract**

101 In recent years, numerous routing control plane anomalies, such as Border Gateway Protocol
102 (BGP) prefix hijacking and route leaks, have resulted in denial-of-service (DoS), unwanted data
103 traffic detours, and performance degradation. Large-scale distributed denial-of-service (DDoS)
104 attacks on servers using spoofed internet protocol (IP) addresses and reflection-amplification in
105 the data plane have also been frequent, resulting in significant disruption of services and
106 damages. This special publication on Resilient Interdomain Traffic Exchange (RITE) includes
107 initial guidance on securing the interdomain routing control traffic, preventing IP address
108 spoofing, and certain aspects of DoS/DDoS detection and mitigation.

109 Many of the recommendations in this publication focus on the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP).
110 BGP is the control protocol used to distribute and compute paths between the tens of thousands
111 of autonomous networks that comprise the internet. Technologies recommended in this
112 document for securing the interdomain routing control traffic include Resource Public Key
113 Infrastructure (RPKI), BGP origin validation (BGP-OV), and prefix filtering. Additionally,
114 technologies recommended for mitigating DoS/DDoS attacks focus on prevention of IP address
115 spoofing using source address validation (SAV) with access control lists (ACLs) and unicast
116 Reverse Path Forwarding (uRPF). Other technologies (including some application plane
117 methods) such as remotely triggered black hole (RTBH) filtering, flow specification (Flowspec),
118 and response rate limiting (RRL) are also recommended as part of the overall security
119 mechanisms.

120 **Keywords**

121 Routing security and robustness; Internet infrastructure security; Border Gateway Protocol
122 (BGP) security; prefix hijacks; IP address spoofing; distributed denial-of-service (DDoS);
123 Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI); BGP origin validation (BGP-OV); prefix filtering;
124 BGP path validation (BGP-PV); BGPsec; route leaks; source address validation (SAV); unicast
125 Reverse Path Forwarding (uRPF); remotely triggered black hole (RTBH) filtering; flow
126 specification (Flowspec).

127

128

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130 Symington, William C. Barker, William Haag, Allen Tan, and Jim Foti for their review and
131 comments.

132

Audience

133 This document gives technical guidance and recommendations for resilient interdomain traffic
134 exchange. The primary audience includes information security officers and managers of federal
135 enterprise networks. The guidance applies to the network services of hosting providers (e.g.,
136 cloud-based applications and service hosting) and internet service providers (ISPs) when they are
137 used to support federal IT systems. The guidance may also be useful for enterprise and transit
138 network operators and equipment vendors in general.

139 It is expected that the guidance and applicable recommendations in this publication will be
140 incorporated into the security plans and operational processes of federal enterprise networks.
141 Likewise, it is expected that applicable recommendations will be incorporated into the service
142 agreements for federal contracts for hosted application services and internet transit services.

143

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166 assurance, provisions sufficient to ensure that the commitments in the assurance are binding on
167 the transferee, and that the transferee will similarly include appropriate provisions in the event of
168 future transfers with the goal of binding each successor-in-interest.

169 The assurance shall also indicate that it is intended to be binding on successors-in-interest
170 regardless of whether such provisions are included in the relevant transfer documents.

171 Such statements should be addressed to: sp800-189@nist.gov

172

173 Executive Summary

174 There have been numerous incidents in recent years involving routing control plane anomalies
175 such as Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) prefix hijacking, route leaks, and other forms of
176 misrouting resulting in denial-of-service (DoS), unwanted data traffic detours, and performance
177 degradation. Large-scale distributed DoS (DDoS) attacks on servers using spoofed internet
178 protocol (IP) addresses and reflection amplification in the data plane have also been frequent,
179 resulting in significant disruption of services and damages.

180 This document provides technical guidance and recommendations for technologies that improve
181 the security and robustness of interdomain traffic exchange. The primary focus of these
182 recommendations are the points of interconnection between enterprise networks, or hosted
183 service providers, and the public internet—in other words, between what are commonly known
184 as “stub” networks (i.e., those networks that only provide connectivity to their end systems) and
185 transit networks (i.e., those networks that serve to interconnect and pass traffic between stub
186 networks and other transit networks). These points of interconnection between stub and transit
187 networks are often referred to as the “internet’s edge.” There is usually a contractual relationship
188 between the transit networks and the stub networks that they service, and the set of technical
189 procedures and policies defined in that relationship is commonly called the “peering policy.”

190 Many of the recommendations in this document also apply to the points of interconnection
191 between two transit networks. There are instances in which the recommendations for interdomain
192 traffic exchange between transit networks will vary from those for exchanges between stub and
193 transit networks.

194 The provided recommendations reduce the risk of accidental attacks (caused by
195 misconfiguration) and malicious attacks in the routing control plane, and they help detect and
196 prevent IP address spoofing and resulting DoS/DDoS attacks. These recommendations primarily
197 cover technologies (for security and robustness) to be used in border routers that operate the
198 Border Gateway Protocol (commonly called BGP routers). However, they also extend to other
199 systems that support reachability on the internet (e.g., Resource Public Key Infrastructure
200 (RPKI) repositories, Domain Name Servers (DNS), other open internet services).

201 It is expected that the guidance and applicable recommendations from this publication will be
202 incorporated into the security plans and operational processes of federal enterprise networks.
203 Likewise, it is expected that applicable recommendations will be incorporated into the service
204 agreements for federal contracts for hosted application services and internet transit services. This
205 document may also contribute to the ongoing efforts by NIST and NTIA [DOC-Botnet] [Botnet-
206 Roadmap] to respond to Presidential Executive Order 13800 [PEO-13800].

207 Technologies recommended in this document for securing interdomain routing control traffic
208 include Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI), BGP origin validation (BGP-OV), and
209 prefix filtering. Additionally, technologies recommended for mitigating DoS/DDoS attacks
210 include prevention of IP address spoofing using source address validation (SAV) with access
211 control lists (ACLs) and unicast Reverse Path Forwarding (uRPF). Other technologies (including
212 some application plane methods) such as remotely triggered black hole (RTBH) filtering, flow

213 specification (Flowspec), and response rate limiting (RRL) are also recommended as part of the
214 overall security mechanisms.

Table of Contents

215

216 **Executive Summary vi**

217 **1 Introduction 1**

218 1.1 What This Guide Covers..... 1

219 1.2 What This Guide Does Not Cover..... 1

220 1.3 Document Structure 2

221 1.4 Conventions Used in this Guide..... 2

222 **2 Control Plane/BGP Vulnerabilities..... 3**

223 2.1 Prefix Hijacking and Announcement of Unallocated Address Space 3

224 2.2 AS Path Modification..... 4

225 2.3 Route Leaks..... 4

226 **3 IP Address Spoofing & Reflection Amplification Attacks 7**

227 3.1 Spoofed Source Addresses 7

228 3.2 Reflection Amplification Attacks 7

229 **4 Control Plane/BGP Security – Solutions and Recommendations 9**

230 4.1 Registration of Route Objects in Internet Routing Registries 9

231 4.2 Certification of Resources in Resource Public Key Infrastructure 10

232 4.3 BGP Origin Validation (BGP-OV)..... 12

233 4.3.1 Forged-Origin Hijacks – How to Minimize Them 16

234 4.4 Categories of Prefix Filters..... 17

235 4.4.1 Unallocated Prefixes..... 17

236 4.4.2 Special Purpose Prefixes 18

237 4.4.3 Prefixes Owned by an AS..... 18

238 4.4.4 Prefixes that Exceed a Specificity Limit 18

239 4.4.5 Default Route 18

240 4.4.6 IXP LAN Prefixes..... 19

241 4.5 Prefix Filtering for Peers of Different Types 19

242 4.5.1 Prefix Filtering with Lateral Peer..... 19

243 4.5.2 Prefix Filtering with Transit Provider 20

244 4.5.3 Prefix Filtering with Customer..... 21

245 4.5.4 Prefix Filtering Performed in a Leaf Customer Network..... 21

246 4.6 Role of RPKI in Prefix Filtering 22

247 4.7 AS Path Validation (Emerging/Future)..... 22

248 4.8 Checking AS Path for Disallowed AS Numbers 24

249 4.9 Route Leak Solution..... 24

250 4.10 Generalized TTL Security Mechanism (GTSM) 25

251 **5 Securing Against DDoS & Reflection Amplification – Solutions and**

252 **Recommendations 27**

253 5.1 Source Address Validation Techniques 27

254 5.1.1 SAV Using Access Control Lists..... 27

255 5.1.2 SAV Using Strict Unicast Reverse Path Forwarding..... 28

256 5.1.3 SAV Using Feasible-Path Unicast Reverse Path Forwarding..... 28

257 5.1.4 SAV Using Loose Unicast Reverse Path Forwarding 30

258 5.1.5 SAV Using VRF Table 30

259 5.1.6 SAV Using Enhanced Feasible-Path uRPF (Emerging/Future)..... 30

260 5.1.7 More Effective Mitigation with Combination of Origin Validation and

261 SAV 31

262 5.2 SAV Recommendations for Various Types of Networks 32

263 5.2.1 Customer with Directly Connected Allocated Address Space:

264 Broadband and Wireless Service Providers 32

265 5.2.2 Enterprise Border Routers..... 33

266 5.2.3 Internet Service Providers 33

267 5.3 Role of RPKI in Source Address Validation 34

268 5.4 Monitoring UDP/TCP Ports with Vulnerable Applications and Employing

269 Traffic Filtering 35

270 5.5 BGP Flow Specification (Flowspec)..... 38

271 **References 41**

List of Appendices

274 **Appendix A— Consolidated List of Security Recommendations 55**

275 **Appendix B— Acronyms 67**

List of Figures

278 Figure 1: Illustration of Prefix Hijacking and Announcement of Unallocated Address

279 Space 3

280 Figure 2: Illustration of the basic notion of a route leak 5

281 Figure 3: DDoS by IP source address spoofing and reflection and amplification 8

282 Figure 4: Illustration of resource allocation and certificate chain in RPKI 11

283 Figure 5: Creation of Route Origin Authorization (ROA) by prefix owner 12

284 Figure 6: RPKI data retrieval, caching, and propagation to routers 13

285 Figure 7: Algorithm for origin validation (based on RFC 6811)..... 14

286 Figure 8: Basic principle of signing/validating AS paths in BGP updates 23

287 Figure 9: Scenario 1 for illustration of efficacy of uRPF schemes 28

288 Figure 10: Scenario 2 for illustration of efficacy of uRPF schemes 29

289 Figure 11: Scenario 3 for illustration of efficacy of uRPF schemes 31

290 Figure 12: Illustration of how origin validation complements SAV 32

291

List of Tables

293 Table 1: Common Applications and their TCP/UDP Port Numbers 36

294 Table 2: BGP Flowspec types 39

295 Table 3: Extended community values defined in Flowspec to specify various types of
296 actions 39

297 Table 4: Consolidated List of the Security Recommendations 55

298

299 **1 Introduction**

300 **1.1 What This Guide Covers**

301 This guide provides technical guidelines and recommendations for deploying protocols and technologies
302 that improve the security of interdomain traffic exchange. These recommendations reduce the risk of
303 accidental attacks (caused by misconfiguration) and malicious attacks in the routing control plane, and
304 they help detect and prevent IP address spoofing and resulting DoS/DDoS attacks. These
305 recommendations primarily cover protocols and techniques to be used in BGP routers. However, they also
306 extend, in part, to other systems that support reachability on the internet (e.g., RPKI repositories, DNS,
307 and other open internet services).

308 Technologies recommended in this document for securing interdomain routing control traffic
309 include RPKI, BGP origin validation (BGP-OV), and prefix filtering. Additionally, technologies
310 recommended for mitigating DoS/DDoS attacks include prevention of IP address spoofing using
311 source address validation (SAV) with access control lists (ACLs) and unicast Reverse Path
312 Forwarding (uRPF). Other technologies (including some application plane methods) such as
313 remotely triggered black hole (RTBH) filtering, flow specification (Flowspec), and response rate
314 limiting (RRL) are also recommended as part of the overall security mechanisms.

315 This document addresses many of the same concerns as highlighted in [CSRIC4-WG6] regarding
316 BGP vulnerabilities and DoS/DDoS attacks but goes into greater technical depth in describing
317 standards-based security mechanisms and providing specific security recommendations.

318 **1.2 What This Guide Does Not Cover**

319 BGP origin validation relies on a global RPKI system (e.g., certificate authorities, publication
320 repositories, etc.) as the source of trusted information about internet address holders and their
321 route origin authorization statements. Each RIR operates trusted root CA in the RPKI system and
322 publishes a Certificate Practice Statement [RFC7382] describing the security and robustness
323 properties of each implementation. Each RPKI CA has integrity and authentication mechanisms
324 for data creation, storage, and transmission. Nevertheless, compromise of the underlying servers
325 and/or registry services is still a potential, if low probability, threat. Making security
326 recommendations for mitigating against such threats is outside of the scope of this document.

327 Transport layer security is key to the integrity of messages communicated in BGP sessions.
328 Making security recommendations for the underlying transport layer is also outside of the scope
329 of this document.

330 DDoS attacks use spoofed IP addresses to exploit connectionless query-response services (e.g.,
331 DNS, Network Time Protocol (NTP), Simple Service Discovery Protocol (SSDP) servers) to
332 “reflect” and amplify the impact on intended targets. This document addresses some but not all
333 aspects of security hardening of the servers that are exploited for reflection and amplification.
334 Security measures—such as limiting the packet rate of outlier source addresses, IP connections,
335 or syn-proxy—may be effectively employed at servers that are used for reflection and
336 amplification of DoS/DDoS attacks, but this document does not cover them.

337 1.3 Document Structure

338 The rest of the document is presented in the following manner:

- 339 • **Section 2:** Routing control plane attacks (e.g., BGP prefix hijacking, autonomous system
340 (AS) path modification, and route leaks) are described.
- 341 • **Section 3:** Data plane attacks involving source IP address spoofing and reflection
342 amplification are described.
- 343 • **Section 4:** Solutions are described, and security recommendations are made for routing
344 control plane/BGP security. The solution technologies that are discussed include RPKI,
345 BGP origin validation (BGP-OV), prefix filtering, BGP path validation (BGP-PV),
346 Generalized TTL Security Mechanism (GTSM), and route leak detection and mitigation.
- 347 • **Section 5:** Solutions are described, and security recommendations are made for detection
348 and mitigation of source IP address spoofing and reflection amplification attacks. The
349 solution technologies that are discussed include ACLs, various uRPF methods, response
350 rate limiting (RRL), RTBH, and Flowspec.

351 1.4 Conventions Used in this Guide

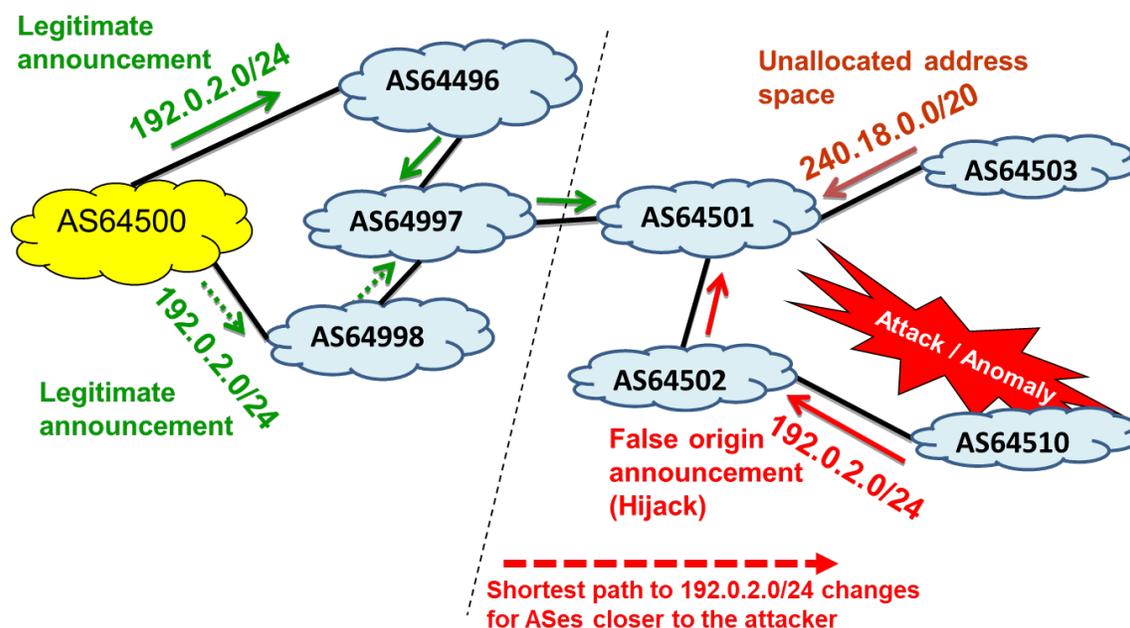
352 Throughout this guide, the following format conventions are used to denote special use text:

353 “**Security Recommendation**” denotes a recommendation that should be addressed in security
354 plans, operational practices, and agreements for contracted services.

355 URLs are included in the text and references to guide readers to a given website or online tool
356 designed to aid administrators. This is not meant to be an endorsement of the website or any
357 product/service offered by the website publisher. All URLs were considered valid at the time of
358 writing.

359 **2 Control Plane/BGP Vulnerabilities**360 **2.1 Prefix Hijacking and Announcement of Unallocated Address Space**

361 A BGP prefix hijack occurs when an autonomous system (AS) accidentally or maliciously
 362 originates a prefix that it is not authorized (by the prefix owner) to originate. This is also known
 363 as false origination (or announcement). In contrast, if an AS is authorized to originate/announce
 364 a prefix by the prefix owner, then such a route origination/announcement is called legitimate. In
 365 the example illustrated in Figure 1, prefix 192.0.2.0/24 is legitimately originated by AS64500,
 366 but AS64510 falsely originates it. The path to the prefix via the false origin AS will be shorter
 367 for a subset of the ASes on the internet, and this subset of ASes will install the false route in their
 368 routing table or forwarding information base (FIB). That is, ASes for which AS64510 is closer
 369 (i.e., shorter AS path length) would choose the false announcement, and thus data traffic from
 370 clients in those ASes destined for the network 192.0.2/24 will be misrouted to AS64510.



371 Adverse effects: denial-of-service, misrouting of traffic, unauthorized routing

371

372 **Figure 1: Illustration of Prefix Hijacking and Announcement of Unallocated Address Space**

373 The rules for IP route selection on the internet always prefer the most specific (i.e., longest)
 374 matching entry in a router's FIB. When an offending AS falsely announces a more-specific
 375 prefix (than a prefix announced by an authorized AS), the longer, unauthorized prefix will be
 376 widely accepted and used to route data. Figure 1 also illustrates an example of unauthorized
 377 origination of unallocated (reserved) address space 240.18.0.0/20. Currently, 240.0.0.0/8 is
 378 reserved for future use [IANA-v4-r]. Similarly, an AS may also falsely originate allocated but
 379 currently unused address space. This is referred to as prefix squatting, where someone else's
 380 unused prefix is temporarily announced and used to send spam or some other malicious purpose.

381 The various types of unauthorized prefix originations described above are called prefix hijacks or
382 false origin announcements. The unauthorized announcement of a prefix longer than the
383 legitimate announcement is called a sub-prefix hijack. The consequences of such adverse actions
384 can be serious and include denial-of-service, eavesdropping, misdirection to imposter servers (to
385 steal login credentials or inject malware), or defeat of IP reputation systems to launch spam
386 email. There have been numerous incidents involving prefix hijacks in recent years. There are
387 several commercial services and research projects that track and log anomalies in the global BGP
388 routing system [BGPmon] [ThousandEyes] [BGPStream] [ARTEMIS]. Many of these sites
389 provide detailed forensic analyses of observed attack scenarios.

390 **2.2 AS Path Modification**

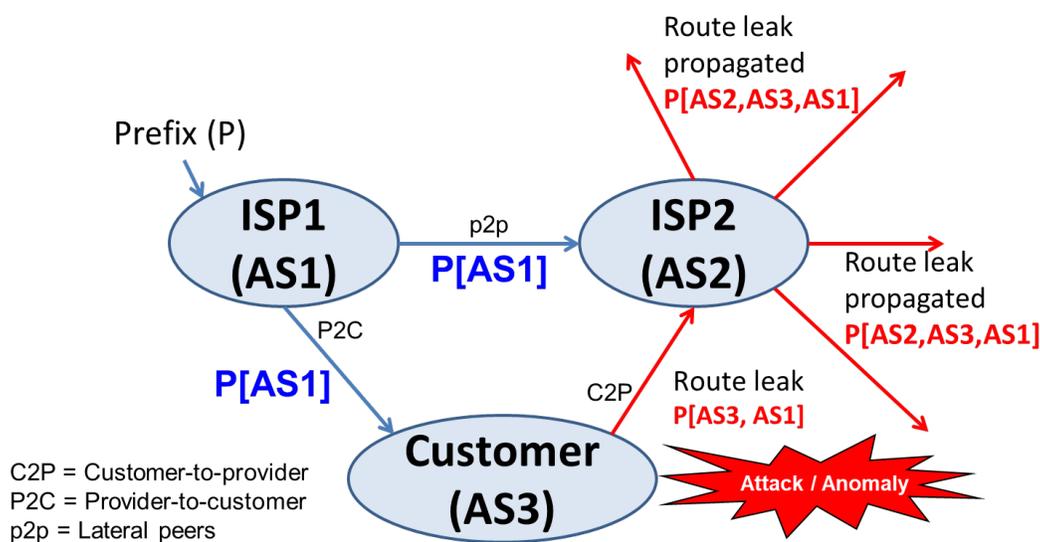
391 BGP messages carry a sequence of AS numbers that indicates the “path” of interconnected
392 networks over which data will flow. This “AS_PATH” [RFC4271] data is often used to
393 implement routing policies that reflect the business agreements and peering policies that have
394 been negotiated between networks. BGP is also vulnerable to modification of the AS_PATH
395 information that it conveys. As an example, a malicious AS which receives a BGP update may
396 illegitimately remove some of the preceding ASes in the AS_PATH attribute of the update to
397 make the path length seem shorter. When the update modified in this manner is propagated, the
398 ASes upstream can be deceived to believe that the path to the advertised prefix via the adversary
399 AS is shorter. By doing this, the adversary AS may seek to illegitimately increase its revenue
400 from its customers, or may be able to eavesdrop on traffic that would otherwise not transit
401 through their AS.

402 Another example of maliciously modifying a BGP update is when an adversary AS replaces a
403 prefix in a received update with a more-specific prefix (subsumed by the prefix) and then
404 forwards the update to neighbors. This attack is known as a Kapela-Pilosov attack [Kapela-
405 Pilosov]. Only the prefix is replaced by a more-specific prefix, but the AS path is not altered. In
406 BGP path selection, a more-specific prefix advertisement wins over a less-specific prefix
407 advertisement. This means that ASes on the internet would widely accept and use the adversary
408 AS’s advertisement for the more-specific prefix. The exceptions are the ASes that are in the AS
409 path from the adversary to the prefix. These exception ASes reject any advertisements that they
410 may receive for the more-specific prefix because they detect their own AS number in the AS
411 path. This is called avoidance of loop detection and is a standard practice in BGP. Thus, the data
412 path from the adversary AS to the prefix (i.e., the network in consideration) remains intact (i.e.,
413 unaffected by the malicious more-specific advertisement). The net result of this attack is very
414 serious. The adversary would be able to force almost all traffic for the more-specific prefix to be
415 routed via their AS. Thus, they can eavesdrop on the data (destined for the more-specific prefix)
416 while channeling it back to the legitimate destination to avoid detection.

417 **2.3 Route Leaks**

418 Previously, it was noted that the interconnections of networks on the internet are dictated by
419 contracted business relationships that express the policies and procedures for the exchange of
420 control and data traffic at each point of interconnection. Such peering policies often specify
421 limits on what routing announcements will be accepted by each party. Often these policies reflect
422 a customer, transit provider, and/or lateral peer business relationship between networks.

423 **Definitions of Peering Relations, Customer Cone:** These definitions are useful for route leaks
 424 (here and in Section 4.9) and also for BGP-OV (Section 4.3), prefix filtering (Sections 4.4 and
 425 4.5), and SAV/uRPF (Sections 5.1 and 5.2). A transit provider typically provides service to
 426 connect its customer(s) to the global internet. A customer AS or network may be single-homed
 427 to one transit provider or multi-homed to more than one transit providers. A stub customer AS
 428 has no customer ASes or lateral peer ASes of its own. A leaf customer is a stub customer that is
 429 single-homed to one transit provider and not connected to any other AS. Peering relationships
 430 considered in this document are provider-to-customer (P2C), customer-to-provider (C2P), and
 431 peer-to-peer (p2p). Here, “provider” refers to transit provider. The first two are transit
 432 relationships. A peer connected via a p2p link is known as a lateral peer (non-transit). A
 433 customer cone of AS A is defined as AS A plus all the ASes that can be reached from A
 434 following only P2C links [Luckie]. The term “customer cone prefixes” of an AS refers to the
 435 union of the prefixes received from all directly connected customers and the prefixes originated
 436 by the AS itself. Naturally, this set recursively includes customers’ prefix advertisements (down
 437 the hierarchy). ASes that have a lateral peering (i.e., p2p) relationship typically announce their
 438 customer cone prefixes to each other and subsequently announce the lateral peer’s customer
 439 cone prefixes to their respective customers but not to other lateral peers or transit providers.



440 In general, ISPs prefer customer route announcements over those from others.

440

441

Figure 2: Illustration of the basic notion of a route leak

442 These relationships are significant because much of the operation of the global internet is
 443 designed such that a stub or customer AS should never be used to route between two transit
 444 ASes. This policy is implemented by insuring that stub or customer ASes do not pass BGP
 445 routing information received from one transit provider to another. Figure 2 illustrates a common
 446 form of route leak that occurs when a multi-homed customer AS (such as AS3 in Figure 2) learns
 447 a prefix update from one transit provider (ISP1) and “leaks” the update to another transit
 448 provider (ISP2) in violation of intended routing policies, and the second transit provider does not
 449 detect the leak and propagates the leaked update to its customers, lateral peers, and transit ISPs

450 [RFC7908]. Some examples of recent route leak incidents include: 1) the MainOne (a Nigerian
451 ISP) leaks of Google prefixes, which caused an outage of Google services for over an hour in
452 November 2018 [Naik]; (2) the Dodo-Telstra incident in March 2012, which caused an outage of
453 internet services nationwide in Australia [Huston2012]; and (3) the massive Telekom Malaysia
454 route leaks, which Level3, in turn, accepted and propagated [Toonk-B].

455 More generally, as defined in [RFC7908], a route leak is the propagation of routing
456 announcements beyond their intended scope. That is, an AS's announcement of a learned BGP
457 route to another AS is in violation of the intended policies of the receiver, the sender, and/or one
458 of the ASes along the preceding AS path.

459 In [RFC7908], several types of route leaks are enumerated and described together with examples
460 of recent incidents. The result of a route leak can include redirection of traffic through an
461 unintended path, which may enable eavesdropping or malicious traffic analysis. When a large
462 number of routes is leaked simultaneously, the offending AS is often overwhelmed by the
463 resulting unexpected data traffic and drops much of the traffic that it receives [Huston2012]
464 [Toonk-A] [Naik]. This causes blackholing and denial-of-service for the affected prefixes. Route
465 leaks can be accidental or malicious but most often arise from accidental misconfigurations.

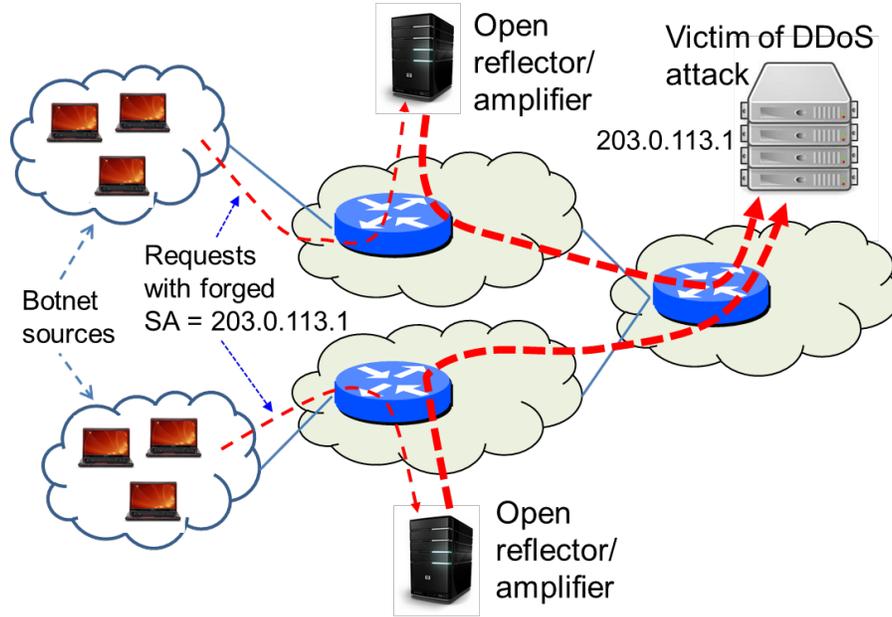
466 **3 IP Address Spoofing & Reflection Amplification Attacks**

467 **3.1 Spoofed Source Addresses**

468 Distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) is a form attack where the attack traffic is generated from
469 many distributed sources to achieve a high-volume attack and directed towards an intended
470 victim (i.e., system or server) [ISOC] [Huston2016] [Mirai1]. To conduct a direct DDoS attack,
471 the attacker typically makes use of a few powerful computers or a vast number of unsuspecting,
472 compromised third-party devices (e.g., laptops, tablets, cell phones, Internet of Things (IoT)
473 devices, etc.). The latter scenario is often implemented through botnets [Arbor] [Huston2016]
474 [DOC-Botnet]. In many DDoS attacks, the IP source addresses in the attack messages are
475 “spoofed” to avoid traceability [Arbor]. Some DDoS attacks are launched without using spoofed
476 source addresses. For example, in the Mirai attacks [Mirai1] [Mirai2] [Winward] [TA16-288A],
477 a very large number of compromised bots (IoT devices) sending the attack traffic used the
478 normal source IP addresses of the IoT devices. Further, the source addresses could also belong to
479 a hijacked prefix with the intention of deceiving source address validation (SAV) [BCP38]
480 [BCP84] (also see Section 5.1.7). If a hijacked prefix is being used, then the source addresses
481 appearing in the DDoS attack packets are sometimes randomly selected from that prefix.

482 **3.2 Reflection Amplification Attacks**

483 Source address spoofing is often combined with reflection and amplification from poorly
484 administered open internet servers (e.g., DNS, NTP) to multiply the attack traffic volume by a
485 factor of 50 or more [ISOC]. The way this works can be explained with the illustration shown in
486 Figure 3. The attacker typically makes use of a botnet consisting of many compromised devices
487 to send query requests to high-performance internet servers. The attacking systems insert the IP
488 address of the target (203.0.113.1) as the source address in the requests. For internet services that
489 use the User Datagram Protocol (UDP) (e.g., DNS, NTP), the query and response are each
490 contained in a single packet, and the exchange does not require the establishment of a connection
491 between the source and the server (unlike Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)). The responses
492 from such open internet servers are directed to the attack target since the target’s IP address was
493 forged as the source address field of the request messages. Often, the response from the server to
494 the target address is much larger than the query itself, amplifying the effect of the DoS attack
495 (see Table 1 in Section 5.4). Such reflection and amplification attacks can result in massive
496 DDoS with attack volumes in the range of hundreds of Gbps [Symantec] [ISTR-2015] [ISTR-
497 2016] [ISTR-2017] [ISOC] [Verisign1] [Verisign2] [Bjarnason]. In Q1 2018, there was an
498 increase of 100% quarter-over-quarter and 700% year-over-year in DNS amplification attacks
499 [HelpNet]. The attack volumes may still rise significantly if the Mirai-scale attacks are combined
500 with reflection amplification attacks.
501



502

503

Figure 3: DDoS by IP source address spoofing and reflection and amplification

4 Control Plane/BGP Security – Solutions and Recommendations

BGP security vulnerabilities and mitigation techniques have been of interest within the networking community for several years (e.g., [IETF-SIDR] [RFC7454] [NIST800-54] [NANOG] [Murphy] [MANRS] [MANRS2] [ENISA] [Quilt] [Levy1] [CSRIC4-WG6] [CSRIC6-WG3] [RFC6811] [RFC8205] [NSA-BGP] [CSDE]). This section highlights key BGP security technologies that have emerged from such efforts and makes related security recommendations. Many of the solution technologies discussed here have been developed and standardized in the IETF [IETF-SIDR] [IETF-SIDROPS] [IETF-IDR] [IETF-OPSEC] [IETF-GROW]. The [MANRS] document can be thought of as complementary to this document since it provides implementation guidance for some of the solution technologies described in this section and Section 5. This document addresses many of the same concerns regarding BGP vulnerabilities and DoS/DDoS attacks as highlighted in [CSRIC4-WG6] but goes into greater technical depth in describing standards-based and commercially available security mechanisms and providing specific security recommendations.

4.1 Registration of Route Objects in Internet Routing Registries

Declarative data about internet resource allocations and routing policies have traditionally been available from regional internet registries (RIRs) and internet routing registries (IRRs). The RIR data are maintained regionally by ARIN in North America, RIPE in Europe, LACNIC in Latin America, APNIC in Asia-Pacific, and AfriNIC in Africa. The IRRs are maintained by the RIRs (RIPE NCC, APNIC, AfriNIC, and ARIN) as well as some major internet service providers (ISPs). Additionally, Merit's Routing Assets Database (RADb) [Merit-RADb] and other similar entities provide a collective routing information base consisting of registered (at their site) as well as mirrored (from the IRRs) data. The route objects available in the IRRs provide routing information declared by network operators. Specifically, the route objects contain information regarding the origination of prefixes (i.e., the association between prefixes and the ASes which may originate them). Routing Policy Specification Language (RPSL) [RFC4012] [RFC7909] and the Shared Whois Project (SWIP) [SWIP] are two formats in which the data in RIRs/IRRs are presented. ARIN predominantly uses SWIP, but some use RPSL as well. LACNIC also uses SWIP. The rest of the RIRs and the ISPs' IRRs use only RPSL.

The completeness, correctness, freshness, and consistency of the data derived from these sources vary widely, and the data is not always reliable. However, there are efforts underway to make the data complete and reliable [RFC7909]. Network operators often obtain route object information from the IRRs and/or RADb, and they can make use of the data in the creation of prefix filters (see Sections 4.4 and 4.5) in their BGP routers.

It is worth noting that RIPE NCC, APNIC, and AfriNIC each run internet routing registries (IRRs) that are integrated with regional internet registry (RIR) allocation data that facilitate stronger authentication schemes. These are documented in [RFC2725]. In the case of address

541 block (NetRange) registration in ARIN, the originating autonomous system (origin AS) is
542 permitted to be included.¹

543 While efforts are encouraged to create complete and accurate IRR data in line with the current
544 operational reality, greater efforts should be devoted to creating route origin authorizations
545 (ROAs) (see Section 4.3) because RPKI provides a stronger authentication and validation
546 framework for network operators than IRR.

547 **Security Recommendation 1:** All internet number resources (e.g., address blocks and
548 AS numbers) should be covered by an appropriate registration services agreement with an
549 RIR, and all point-of-contact (POC) information should be up to date. The granularity of
550 such registrations should reflect all sub-allocations to entities (e.g., enterprises within the
551 parent organization, branch offices) that operate their own network services (e.g., internet
552 access, DNS).

553 **Security Recommendation 2:** In the case of address block (NetRange) registration in
554 ARIN, the originating autonomous system (origin AS) should be included.²

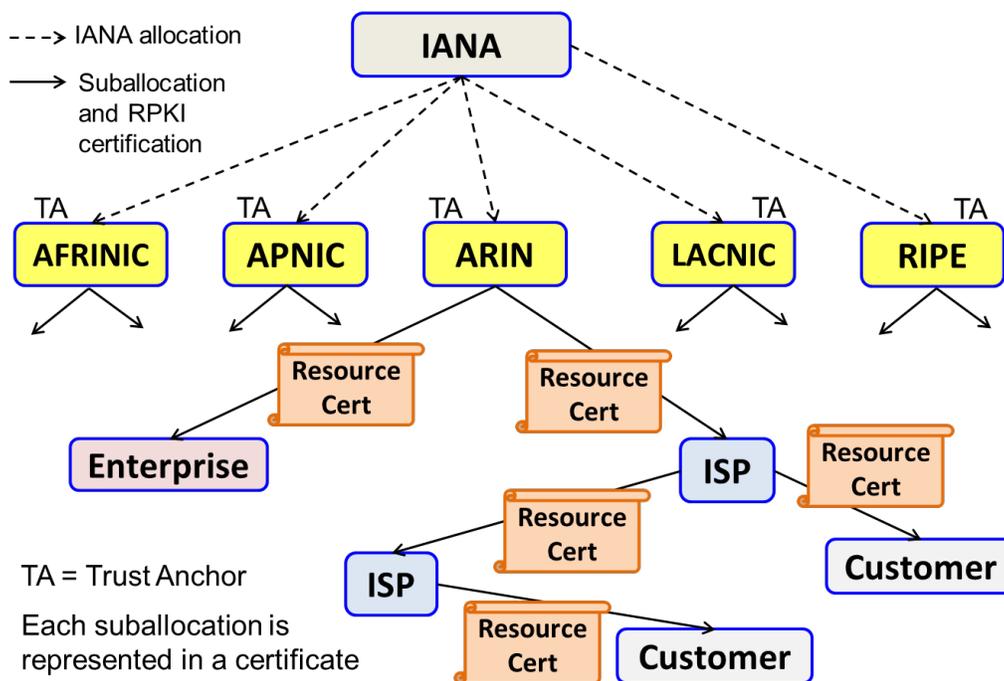
555 **Security Recommendation 3:** Route objects corresponding to the BGP routes
556 originating from an AS should be registered and actively maintained in an appropriate
557 RIR's IRR. Enterprises should ensure that appropriate IRR information exists for all IP
558 address space used directly and by their outsourced IT systems and services.

559 4.2 Certification of Resources in Resource Public Key Infrastructure

560 Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) is a standards-based approach for providing
561 cryptographically secured registries of internet resources and routing authorizations [RFC6480]
562 [RFC6482] [NANOG] [Murphy]. The IPv4/IPv6 address and AS number resource allocations
563 follow a hierarchy. The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) allocates resources to the
564 regional internet registries (RIRs) (e.g., ARIN, RIPE, etc.), and the RIRs suballocate resources to
565 ISPs and enterprises. The ISPs may further suballocate to other ISPs and enterprises. In some
566 regions, RIRs suballocate to local internet registries (LIRs), which in turn suballocate to ISPs and
567 enterprises. RPKI is a global certificate authority (CA) and registry service offered by all regional
568 internet registries (RIRs). The RPKI certification chain follows the same allocation hierarchy
569 (see Figure 4). Although RPKI certifications are illustrated only under ARIN in Figure 4, a
570 similar pattern is found in all other RIRs. Ideally, there should be a single root or trust anchor
571 (TA) at the top of the hierarchy, but currently, each of the five RIRs (AFRINIC, APNIC, ARIN,
572 LACNIC, and RIPE) maintains an independent TA for RPKI certification services in its
573 respective region. Thus, the global RPKI is currently operating with five TAs (see [ARIN1]
574 [ARIN2] [RIPE1] [RIPE2]).

¹ See <https://whois.arin.net/rest/net/NET-128-3-0-0-1/pft?s=128.3.0>.

² See <https://whois.arin.net/rest/net/NET-128-3-0-0-1/pft?s=128.3.0>.



575

576

Figure 4: Illustration of resource allocation and certificate chain in RPKI

577 RPKI is based on the X.509 standard with RFC 3779 extensions that describe special certificate
 578 profiles for internet number resources (prefixes and AS numbers) [RFC5280] [RFC6487]
 579 [RFC3779]. As shown in Figure 4, the RIRs issue resource certificates (i.e., certificate authority
 580 (CA) certificates) to ISPs and enterprises with registered number resource allocations and
 581 assignments. There are two models of resource certification: hosted and delegated [ARIN1]
 582 [RIPE1]. In the hosted model, the RIR keeps and manages keys and performs RPKI operations
 583 on their servers. In the delegated model, a resource holder (an ISP or enterprise) receives a CA
 584 certificate from their RIR, hosts their own certificate authority, and performs RPKI operations
 585 (e.g., signs route origin authorizations (see Section 4.3), issues subordinate resource certificates
 586 to their customers).

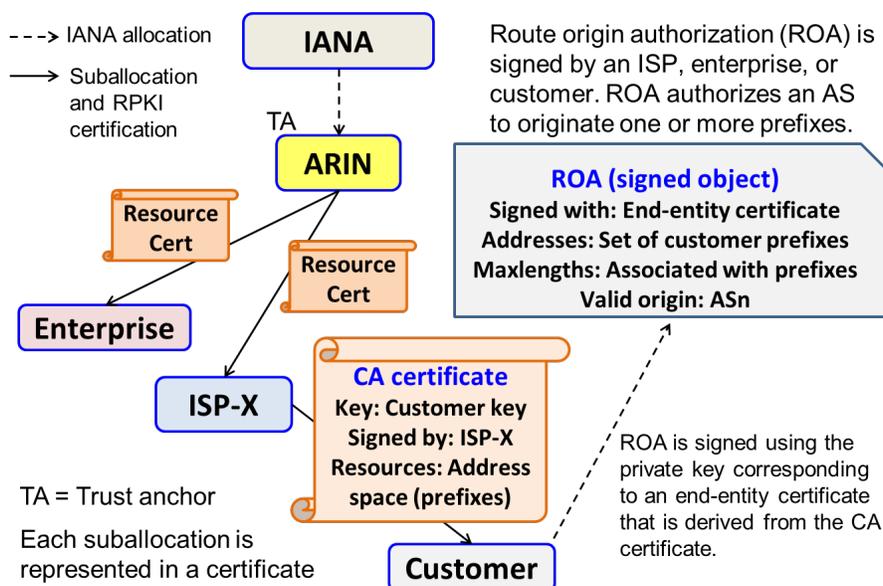
587 **Security Recommendation 4:** Internet number resource holders with IPv4/IPv6
 588 prefixes and/or AS numbers (ASNs) should obtain RPKI certificate(s) for their resources.

589 **Security Recommendation 5:** Transit providers should provide a service where they
 590 create, publish, and manage subordinate resource certificates for address space and/or
 591 ASNs suballocated to their customers.³

³ Currently, RPKI services based on the hosted model and offered by RIRs are common. Security Recommendation 5 can be implemented in the hosted or delegated model based on service agreements with customers.

592 **4.3 BGP Origin Validation (BGP-OV)**

593 Once an address prefix owner obtains a CA certificate, they can generate an end-entity (EE)
 594 certificate and use the private key associated with the EE certificate to digitally sign a route
 595 origin authorization (ROA) [RFC6482] [RFC6811]. An ROA declares a specific AS as an
 596 authorized originator of BGP announcements for the prefix (see Figure 5). It specifies one or
 597 more prefixes (optionally a maxlength per prefix) and a single AS number. If a maxlength is
 598 specified for a prefix in the ROA, then any more-specific (i.e., longer) prefixes (subsumed under
 599 the prefix) with a length not exceeding the maxlength are permitted to be originated from the
 600 specified AS. In the absence of an explicit maxlength for a prefix, the maxlength is equal to the
 601 length of the prefix itself. If the resource owner has a resource certificate listing multiple
 602 prefixes, they can create one ROA in which some or all those prefixes are listed. Alternatively,
 603 they can create one ROA per prefix.



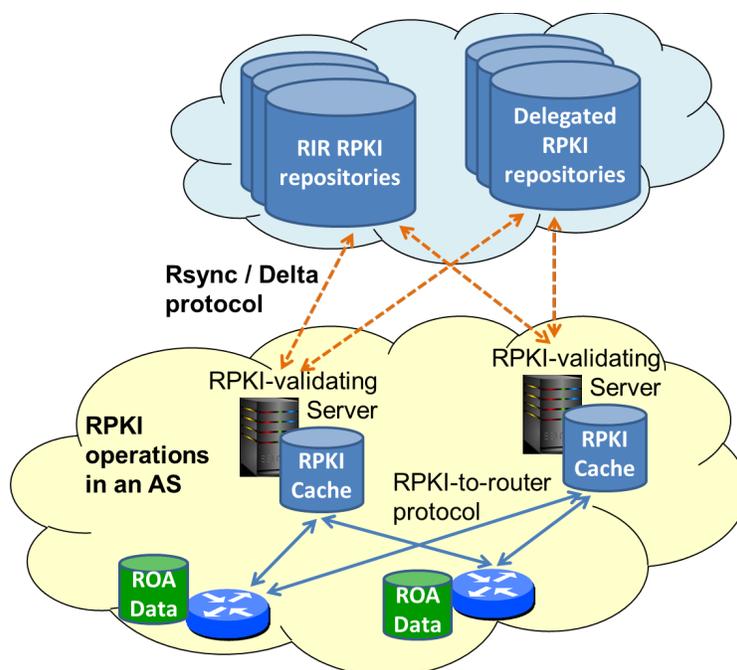
604

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Figure 5: Creation of Route Origin Authorization (ROA) by prefix owner

606 ROAs can also be created (signed) by an ISP (transit provider) on behalf of its customer based
 607 on a service agreement provided that the ISP suballocated the address space to the customer. The
 608 ISP can offer a service to its customers where the ISP creates and maintains CA certificates for
 609 the customers' resources and ROAs for the customers' prefixes.

610 Once created, RPKI data is used throughout the internet by relying parties (RPs). RPs, such as
 611 RPKI-validating servers, can access RPKI data from the repositories (see Figure 6) using either
 612 the rsync protocol [Rsync] [Rsync-RPKI] or the RPKI Repository Delta Protocol (RRDP)
 613 [RFC8182]. The RRDP protocol is often called "delta protocol" as shorthand. A BGP router
 614 typically accesses the required ROA data from one or more RPKI cache servers that are
 615 maintained by its AS. As shown in Figure 6, the RPKI-to-router protocol is used for
 616 communication between the RPKI cache server and the router [RFC6810] [RFC8210]. More
 617 details regarding secure routing architecture based on RPKI can be found in [RFC6480].

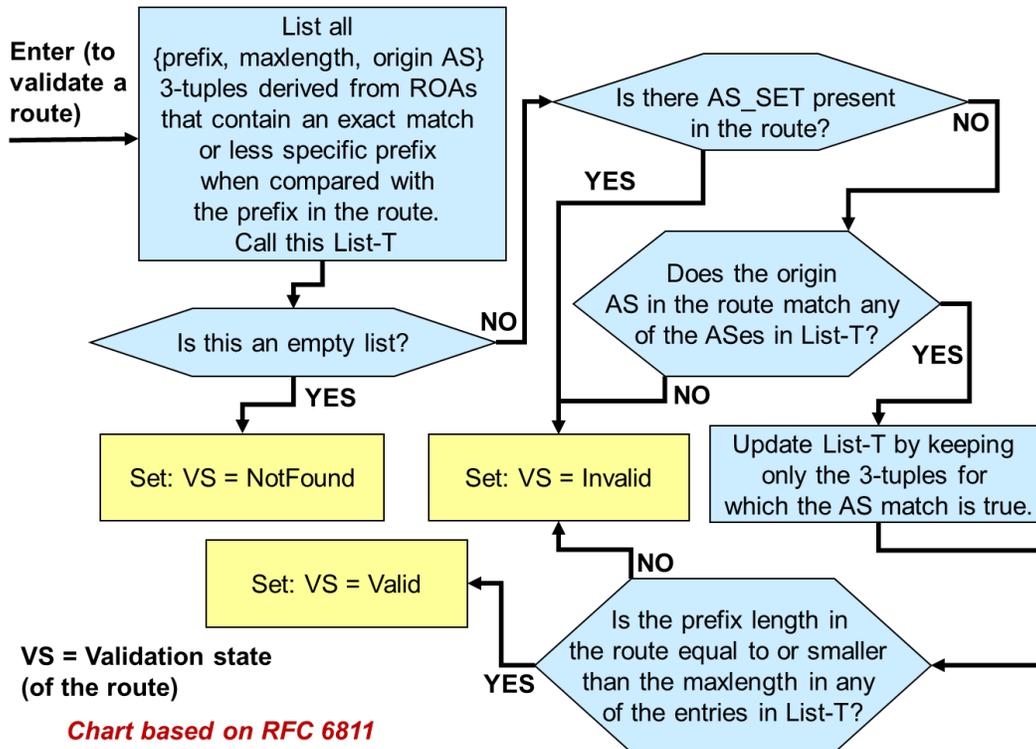


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619

Figure 6: RPKI data retrieval, caching, and propagation to routers

620 A BGP router can use the ROA information retrieved from an RPKI cache server to mitigate the
 621 risk of prefix hijacks and some forms of route leaks in advertised routes. A BGP router would
 622 typically receive a validated list of {prefix, maxlength, origin AS} tuples (derived from valid
 623 ROAs) from one or more RPKI cache servers. This list may be called a white list. The router
 624 makes use of this list with the BGP origin validation (BGP-OV) process depicted in Figure 7 to
 625 determine the validation state of an advertised route [RFC6811]. A BGP route is deemed to have
 626 a “Valid” origin if the {prefix, origin AS} pair in the advertised route can be corroborated with
 627 the list (i.e., the pair is permissible in accordance with at least one ROA; see Figure 7 for the
 628 details). A route is considered “Invalid” if there is a mismatch with the list (i.e., AS number does
 629 not match, or the prefix length exceeds maxlength; see Figure 7 for additional details). Further, a
 630 route is deemed “NotFound” if the prefix announced is not covered by any prefix in the white list
 631 (i.e., there is no ROA that contains a prefix that equals or subsumes the announced prefix). When
 632 an AS_SET [RFC4271] is present in a BGP update, it is not possible to clearly determine the
 633 origin AS from the AS_PATH [RFC6811]. Thus, an update containing an AS_SET in its
 634 AS_PATH can never receive an assessment of “Valid” in the origin validation process (see
 635 Figure 7). The use of AS_SET in BGP updates is discouraged in BCP 172 [RFC6472]. The
 636 RPKI-based origin validation may be supplemented by validation based on IRR data (see Section
 637 4.1).



638

639

Figure 7: Algorithm for origin validation (based on RFC 6811)

640 There are several implementations of RPKI-based BGP OV in both hardware and software-based
 641 router platforms [Juniper1] [Cisco1] [Patel] [Scudder] [NIST-SRx] [Parsons2] [goBGP]
 642 [RTRlib]. Deployment guidance and configuration guidance for many of these implementations
 643 are available from several sources, including [NCCoE-sidr] [RIPE1] [MANRS]. Although BGP-
 644 OV is already implemented in commercial BGP routers, the activation and ubiquitous use of
 645 RPKI and BGP-OV in BGP routers require motivation and commitment on the part of network
 646 operators.

647 **Security Recommendation 6:** Resource holders should register ROA(s) in the global
 648 RPKI for all prefixes that are announced or intended to be announced on the public
 649 internet.

650 **Security Recommendation 7:** Each transit provider should provide a service where
 651 they create, publish, and maintain ROAs for prefixes suballocated to their customers.
 652 Alternatively, as part of the service, customers can be allowed to create, publish, and
 653 maintain their ROAs in a repository maintained by the transit provider.⁴

654 **Security Recommendation 8:** If a prefix that is announced (or intended to be
 655 announced) is multi-homed and originated from multiple ASes, then one ROA per
 656 originating AS should be registered for the prefix (possibly in combination with other

⁴ Security Recommendation 7 can be implemented in the hosted or the delegated model based on service agreements with customers.

657 prefixes which are also originated from the same AS).

658 **Security Recommendation 9:** When an ISP or enterprise owns multiple prefixes that
659 include less-specific and more-specific prefixes, they should ensure that the more-
660 specific prefixes have ROAs before creating ROAs for the subsuming less-specific
661 prefixes.

662 **Security Recommendation 10:** An ISP should wait until more specific prefixes
663 announced from within their customer cone have ROAs prior to the creation of its own
664 ROAs for subsuming less-specific prefix(es).

665 AS0 is a special AS number that is not allocated to any autonomous system. AS0 is also not
666 permitted in routes announced in BGP. An AS0 ROA is one which has an AS0 in it for the
667 originating AS [RFC6483] [APNIC1]. An address resource owner can create an AS0 ROA for
668 their prefix to declare the intention that the prefix or any more-specific prefix subsumed under it
669 must not be announced until and unless a normal ROA simultaneously exists for the prefix or the
670 more-specific prefix.

671 **Security Recommendation 11:** An ISP or enterprise should create an AS0 ROA for
672 any prefix that is currently not announced to the public internet. However, this should be
673 done only after ensuring that ROAs exist for any more-specific prefixes subsumed by the
674 prefix that are announced or are intended to be announced.

675 **Security Recommendation 12:** A BGP router should not send updates with AS_SET
676 or AS_CONFED_SET in them (in compliance with BCP 172 [RFC6472]).

677 **Security Recommendation 13:** ISPs and enterprises that operate BGP routers should
678 also operate one or more RPKI-validating caches.

679 **Security Recommendation 14:** A BGP router should maintain an up-to-date white
680 list consisting of {prefix, maxlength, origin ASN} that is derived from valid ROAs in the
681 global RPKI. The router should perform BGP-OV.

682 Concerning Security Recommendation 14, BGP-OV is implemented by the majority of major
683 router vendors. The white list of {prefix, maxlength, origin ASN} 3-tuples is typically obtained
684 and periodically refreshed by a router from a local RPKI cache server. As mentioned before, the
685 RPKI-to-router protocol [RFC6810] [RFC8210] is used for this communication.

686 **Security Recommendation 15:** In partial/incremental deployment state of the RPKI,
687 the permissible {prefix, origin ASN} pairs for performing BGP-OV should be generated
688 by taking the union of such data obtained from ROAs, IRR data, and customer contracts.

689 **Security Recommendation 16:** BGP-OV results should be incorporated into local
690 policy decisions to select BGP best paths.

691 Concerning Security Recommendation 16, exactly how BGP-OV results are used in path
692 selection is strictly a local policy decision for each network operator. Typical policy choices
693 include:

- 694 • Tag-Only – BGP-OV results are only used to tag/log data about BGP routes for
695 diagnostic purposes.
- 696 • Prefer-Valid – Use local preference settings to give priority to valid routes. Note that this
697 is only a tie-breaking preference among routes with the exact same prefix.
- 698 • Drop-Invalid – Use local policy to ignore invalid routes in the BGP decision process.

699 Careful planning and thought should be given to the application of such policies. In general, it is
700 important that BGP-OV local policies be consistent throughout an individual AS, both in terms
701 of which peering sessions BGP-OV is enabled on and how the results are used to influence the
702 BGP decision process. It is recommended that network operators proceed through an incremental
703 deployment process of adopting more stringent policies over time after gaining experience and
704 confidence in the system. The three example policies above can be viewed as recommended
705 stages of an incremental adoption plan.

706 Enterprises should require their hosted service providers (e.g., cloud, CDN, DNS, email) to
707 follow the security recommendations stated in this section concerning the certification of
708 resources and creation of ROAs for the prefixes that are used in providing the hosted services
709 and that belong to the providers. An enterprise can do this themselves if the hosted service
710 provider is using the enterprise's own address space for the hosted services.

711 4.3.1 Forged-Origin Hijacks – How to Minimize Them

712 With ROA-based origin validation alone, it is possible to prevent accidental misoriginations.
713 However, a purposeful malicious hijacker can forge the origin AS of any update by prepending
714 the number of an AS found in an ROA for the target prefix onto their own unauthorized BGP
715 announcement. For greater impact, in conjunction with forging the origin, the attacker may
716 replace the prefix in the route with a more-specific prefix (subsumed under the announced
717 prefix) that has a length not exceeding the maxlength in the ROA. The security recommendations
718 that follow are useful to minimize forged-origin attacks.⁵

719 The following recommendation provides some degree of robustness against forged-origin
720 attacks:

721 **Security Recommendation 17:** The maxlength in the ROA should not exceed the
722 length of the most specific prefix (subsumed under the prefix in consideration) that is
723 originated or intended to be originated from the AS listed in the ROA.

724 The following recommendation provides an even greater degree of robustness against forged-
725 origin attacks:

726 **Security Recommendation 18:** If a prefix and select more-specific prefixes
727 subsumed under it are announced or intended to be announced, then instead of specifying
728 a maxlength, the prefix and the more-specific prefixes should be listed explicitly in

⁵ BGP path validation (i.e., BGPsec [RFC8205]) described in Section 4.7 is required for full protection against prefix and/or path modifications.

729 multiple ROAs (i.e., one ROA per prefix or more-specific prefix).⁶

730 4.4 Categories of Prefix Filters

731 BGP prefix filtering (also known as route filtering) is the most basic mechanism for protecting
732 BGP routers from accidental or malicious disruption [RFC7454] [NIST800-54]. Prefix filtering
733 differs from BGP-OV in that only the prefixes expected in a peering (e.g., customer) relationship
734 are accepted, and prefixes not expected—including bogons and unallocated—are rejected.
735 Further, origin validation is not a part of traditional prefix filtering, but it is complementary.
736 Filtering capabilities on both incoming prefixes (inbound prefix filtering) and outgoing prefixes
737 (outbound prefix filtering) should be implemented. Route filters are typically specified using a
738 syntax similar to that used for access control lists. One option is to list ranges of IP prefixes that
739 are to be denied and then permit all others. Alternatively, ranges of permitted prefixes can be
740 specified, and the rest denied. The choice of which approach to use depends on practical
741 considerations determined by system administrators. Typically, BGP peers should have matching
742 prefix filters (i.e., the outbound prefix filters of an AS should be matched by the inbound prefix
743 filters of peers that it communicates with). For example, if AS 64496 filters its outgoing prefixes
744 towards peer AS 64500 to permit only those in set P , then AS 64500 establishes incoming prefix
745 filters to ensure that the prefixes it accepts from AS 64496 are only those in set P .

746 Different types of prefix filters are described in the rest of Section 4.4, and their applicability is
747 described in the context of different peering relations in Section 4.5.

748 4.4.1 Unallocated Prefixes

749 The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) allocates address space to RIRs. All the IPv4
750 address space (or prefixes), except for some reserved for future use, have been allocated by
751 IANA [IANA-v4-r]. The RIRs have also nearly fully allocated their IPv4 address space [IANA-
752 v4-r].⁷ The IPv6 address space is much larger than that of IPv4, and, understandably, the bulk of
753 it is unallocated. Therefore, it is a good practice to accept only those IPv6 prefix advertisements
754 that have been allocated by the IANA [IANA-v6-r]. Network operators should ensure that the
755 IPv6 prefix filters are updated regularly (normally, within a few weeks after any change in
756 allocation of IPv6 prefixes). In the absence of such regular updating processes, it is better not to
757 configure filters based on allocated prefixes. Team Cymru provides a service for updating bogon
758 prefix lists for IPv4 and IPv6 [Cymru-bogon].

759 **Security Recommendation 19:** IPv6 routes should be filtered to permit only
760 allocated IPv6 prefixes. Network operators should update IPv6 prefix filters regularly to
761 include any newly allocated prefixes.

762 If prefix resource owners regularly register ASO ROAs (see Section 4.3) for allocated (but
763 possibly currently unused) prefixes, then those ROAs could be a complementary source for the
764 update of prefix filters.

⁶ In general, the use of maxlength should be avoided unless all or nearly all more-specific prefixes up to a maxlength are announced or intended to be announced [maxlength].

⁷ Some of the prefixes are designated for special use as discussed in Section 4.4.2.

765 4.4.2 Special Purpose Prefixes

766 IANA maintains registries for special-purpose IPv4 and IPv6 addresses [IANA-v4-sp] [IANA-
767 v6-sp]. These registries also include specification of the routing scope of the special-purpose
768 prefixes.

769 **Security Recommendation 20:** Prefixes that are marked “False” in column “Global”
770 [IANA-v4-sp] [IANA-v6-sp] are forbidden from routing in the global internet and should
771 be rejected if received from an external BGP (eBGP) peer.

772 4.4.3 Prefixes Owned by an AS

773 An AS may originate one or multiple prefixes. In the inbound direction, the AS should (in most
774 cases) reject routes for the prefixes it originates if received from any of its eBGP peers (transit
775 provider, customer, or lateral peer). In general, the data traffic destined for these prefixes should
776 stay local and should not be leaked over external peering. However, if the AS operator is
777 uncertain whether a prefix they originate is single-homed or multi-homed, then the AS should
778 accept the prefix advertisement from an eBGP peer (and assign a lower local preference value)
779 so that the desired redundancy is maintained.

780 **Security Recommendation 21:** For single-homed prefixes (subnets) that are owned
781 and originated by an AS, any routes for those prefixes received at that AS from eBGP
782 peers should be rejected.

783 4.4.4 Prefixes that Exceed a Specificity Limit

784 Normally, ISPs neither announce nor accept routes for prefixes that are more specific than a
785 certain level of specificity. For example, maximum acceptable prefix lengths are mentioned in
786 existing practices as /24 for IPv4 [RIPE-399] and /48 for IPv6 [RIPE-532]. The level of
787 specificity that is acceptable is decided by each AS operator and communicated with peers. In
788 instances when Flowspec (see Section 5.5) [RFC5575] [Hares] [Ryburn] is used between
789 adjacent ASes for DDoS mitigation, the two ASes may mutually agree to accept longer prefix
790 lengths (e.g., a /32 for IPv4) but only for certain pre-agreed prefixes. That is, the announced
791 more-specific prefix must be contained within a pre-agreed prefix.

792 **Security Recommendation 22:** It is recommended that an eBGP router should set
793 the specificity limit for each eBGP peer and reject prefixes that exceed the specificity
794 limit on a per-peer basis.⁸

795 Some operators may choose to reject prefix announcements that are less-specific than /8 and /11
796 for IPv4 and IPv6, respectively.

797 4.4.5 Default Route

798 A route for the prefix 0.0.0.0/0 is known as the default route in IPv4, and a route for ::/0 is

⁸ The specificity limit may be the same for all peers (e.g., /24 for IPv4 and /48 for IPv6).

799 known as the default route in IPv6. The default route is advertised or accepted only in specific
800 customer-provider peering relations. For example, a transit provider and a customer that is a stub
801 or leaf network may make this arrangement between them whereby the customer accepts the
802 default route from the provider instead of the full routing table. In general, filtering the default
803 route is recommended except in situations where a special peering agreement exists.

804 **Security Recommendation 23:** The default route (0.0.0.0/0 in IPv4 and ::/0 in IPv6)
805 should be rejected except when a special peering agreement exists that permits accepting
806 it.

807 **4.4.6 IXP LAN Prefixes**

808 Typically, there is a need for the clients at an internet exchange point (IXP) to have knowledge
809 of the IP prefix used for the IXP LAN which facilitates peering between the clients.

810 **Security Recommendation 24:** An internet exchange point (IXP) should announce—
811 from its route server to all of its member ASes—its LAN prefix or its entire prefix, which
812 would be the same as or less specific than its LAN prefix. Each IXP member AS should,
813 in turn, accept this prefix and reject any more-specific prefixes (of the IXP announced
814 prefix) from any of its eBGP peers.

815 Implementing Security Recommendation 24 will ensure reachability to the IXP LAN prefix for
816 each of the IXP members. It will also ensure that the Path Maximum Transmission Unit
817 Discovery (PMTUD) will work between the members even in the presence of unicast Reverse
818 Path Forwarding (uRPF). This is because the “packet too big” Internet Control Message Protocol
819 (ICMP) messages sent by IXP members' routers may be sourced using an IP address from the
820 IXP LAN prefix. See [RFC7454] for more details on this topic.

821 **4.5 Prefix Filtering for Peers of Different Types**

822 The inbound and outbound prefix filtering recommendations vary based on the type of peering
823 relationship that exists between networks: lateral peer, transit provider, customer, or leaf
824 customer (see definitions in Section 2.3). The different types of filters that apply are from the
825 list described in Sections 4.4.1 through 4.4.6.

826 The security recommendations that follow apply to enterprises when they have eBGP peering
827 with neighbor ASes. When an enterprise procures transit services from an ISP or hosted services
828 (e.g., cloud, CDN, DNS, email) from hosted service providers, the security recommendations
829 should be included in the respective service contracts.

830 **4.5.1 Prefix Filtering with Lateral Peer**

831 **Security Recommendation 25: Inbound prefix filtering facing lateral peer** – The
832 following prefix filters should be applied in the inbound direction:

- 833 • Unallocated prefixes
- 834 • Special-purpose prefixes
- 835 • Prefixes that the AS originates

- 836 • Prefixes that exceed a specificity limit
- 837 • Default route
- 838 • IXP LAN prefixes

839 **Security Recommendation 26: Outbound prefix filtering facing lateral peer** –
 840 The appropriate outbound prefixes are those that are originated by the AS in question and
 841 those originated by its downstream ASes (i.e., the ASes in its customer cone). The
 842 following prefix filters should be applied in the outbound direction:

- 843 • Unallocated prefixes⁹
- 844 • Special-purpose prefixes
- 845 • Prefixes that exceed a specificity limit
- 846 • Default route
- 847 • IXP LAN prefixes
- 848 • Prefixes learned from AS's other lateral peers (see Security Recommendations in
 849 Section 4.9)
- 850 • Prefixes learned from AS's transit providers (see Security Recommendations in
 851 Section 4.9)

852 4.5.2 Prefix Filtering with Transit Provider

853 **Security Recommendation 27: Inbound prefix filtering facing transit provider** –
 854 **Case 1 (full routing table):** In general, when the full routing table is required from the
 855 transit provider, the following prefix filters should be applied in the inbound direction:¹⁰

- 856 • Unallocated prefixes
- 857 • Special-purpose prefixes
- 858 • Prefixes that the AS originates
- 859 • Prefixes that exceed a specificity limit
- 860 • IXP LAN prefixes

861 **Security Recommendation 28: Inbound prefix filtering facing transit provider** –
 862 **Case 2 (default route):** If the border router is configured only for the default route, then
 863 only the default route should be accepted from the transit provider and nothing else.

864 **Security Recommendation 29: Outbound prefix filtering facing transit provider:**
 865 The same outbound prefix filters should be applied as those for a lateral peer (see Section
 866 4.5.1) except that the last two bullets are modified as follows:¹¹

⁹ Unallocated prefixes may be omitted if there is confidence that the inbound prefix filters are not letting them in.

¹⁰ The default route is not included in this list. In some cases, a customer network prefers to receive the default route from a transit provider in addition to the full routing table.

¹¹ In conjunction with Security Recommendation 29, some policy rules may also be applied if a transit provider is not contracted (or chosen) to provide transit for some subset of outbound prefixes.

- 867 • Prefixes learned from AS’s lateral peers (see Security Recommendations in
868 Section 4.9)
869 • Prefixes learned from AS’s other transit providers (see Security
870 Recommendations in Section 4.9)

871 **4.5.3 Prefix Filtering with Customer**

872 **Inbound prefix filtering:** There are two scenarios that require consideration. **Scenario 1** is
873 when there is full visibility of the customer and its cone of customers (if any) as well as
874 knowledge of prefixes that originated from such a customer and its cone. The knowledge of
875 prefixes can be based on direct customer knowledge, IRR data, and/or RPKI data (if that data is
876 known to be in a complete and well-maintained state for the customer in consideration and its
877 customer cone). The prefixes thus known for the customer and its customer cone are listed in the
878 configuration of the eBGP router in question.

879 **Security Recommendation 30: Inbound prefix filtering facing customer in**
880 **Scenario 1** – Only the prefixes that are known to be originated from the customer and its
881 customer cone should be accepted, and all other route announcements should be rejected.

882 **Scenario 2** is when there is not a reliable knowledge of all prefixes originated from the customer
883 and its cone of customers.

884 **Security Recommendation 31: Inbound prefix filtering facing customer in**
885 **Scenario 2** – The same set of inbound prefix filters should be applied as those for a
886 lateral peer (see Section 4.5.1).

887 **Security Recommendation 32: Outbound prefix filtering facing customer** – The
888 filters applied in this case would vary depending on whether the customer wants to
889 receive only the default route or the full routing table. If it is the former, then only the
890 default route should be announced and nothing else. In the latter case, the following
891 outbound prefix filters should be applied:¹²

- 892 • Special-purpose prefixes
893 • Prefixes that exceed a specificity limit

894 **4.5.4 Prefix Filtering Performed in a Leaf Customer Network**

895 A leaf customer network is one which is single-homed to a transit provider and has no lateral
896 peers or customer ASes downstream.

897 **Security Recommendation 33: Inbound prefix filtering for leaf customer facing**
898 **transit provider** – A leaf customer may request only the default route from its transit
899 provider. In this case, only the default route should be accepted and nothing else. If the
900 leaf customer requires the full routing table from the transit provider, then it should apply

¹² The default route filter may be added if the customer requires the full routing table but not the default route.

901 the following inbound prefix filters:

- 902 • Unallocated prefixes
- 903 • Special-purpose prefixes
- 904 • Prefixes that the AS (i.e., leaf customer) originates
- 905 • Prefixes that exceed a specificity limit
- 906 • Default route

907 **Security Recommendation 34: Outbound prefix filtering for leaf customer facing**
 908 **transit provider** – A leaf customer network should apply a very simple outbound policy
 909 of announcing only the prefixes it originates. However, it may additionally apply the same
 910 outbound prefix filters as those for a lateral peer (see Section 4.5.1) to observe extra
 911 caution.

912 4.6 Role of RPKI in Prefix Filtering

913 An ISP can retrieve (from RPKI registries) all available route origin authorizations (ROAs)
 914 corresponding to autonomous systems (ASes) that are known to belong in their customer cone
 915 (see definition in Section 2.3).¹³ From the available ROAs, it is possible to determine the
 916 prefixes that can be originated from the ASes in the customer cone. As the RPKI registries
 917 become mature with increasing adoption, the prefix lists derived from ROAs will become useful
 918 for prefix filtering. Even in the early stages of RPKI adoption, the prefix lists (from ROAs) can
 919 help cross-check and/or augment the prefix filter lists that an ISP constructs by other means.

920 **Security Recommendation 35:** The ROA data (available from RPKI registries) should
 921 be used to construct and/or augment prefix filter lists for customer interfaces.¹⁴

922 4.7 AS Path Validation (Emerging/Future)

923 The IETF standard for BGP path validation (BGP-PV), namely BGPsec [RFC8205], is available
 924 but commercial vendor implementations are not currently available. Hence, this section briefly
 925 describes the technology and standards but does not make any security recommendations
 926 concerning BGP-PV.

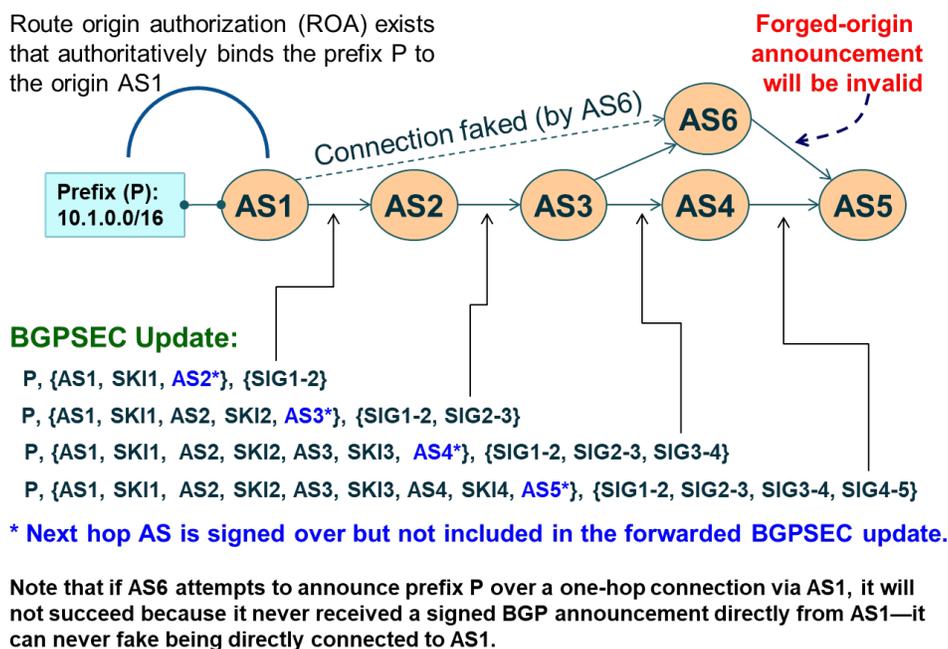
927 As observed in Sections 4.3 and 4.3.1, BGP origin validation (BGP-OV) is necessary but, by
 928 itself, is insufficient for fully securing the prefix and AS path in BGP announcements. BGP path
 929 validation (BGP-PV) is additionally required to protect against prefix modifications and forged-
 930 origin attacks (see Section 4.3.1) as well as other AS-path attacks such as path shortening and
 931 Kapela-Pilosov attacks (see Section 2.2). There is significant interest in the networking
 932 community to secure the AS path in BGP updates so that a more comprehensive protection can
 933 be provided to BGP updates [RFC8205] [RFC8208] [RFC7353] [Huston2011] [RFC8374]. RFC

¹³ The list of ASes in an AS's customer cone can be determined by forming the list of unique origin ASes in all BGP announcements received (i.e., currently in the Adj-RIB-ins [RFC4271]) on all customer interfaces at the AS under consideration (see Step 3 in Section 3.4 in [EFP-uRPF]). This can be done in the network management system (off the router).

¹⁴ Security Recommendation 35 is possibly more applicable to smaller ISPs than larger ISPs.

934 8205 is the IETF standard that specifies the BGPsec protocol (i.e., the protocol for BGP path
935 validation). Open-source prototype implementations of BGP-PV are available [NIST-SRx]
936 [Parsons2] [Adalier2].

937 The basic principles of BGP-PV are illustrated in Figure 8.¹⁵ An ROA signed by the owner of
938 the prefix 10.1.0.0/16 attests that AS1 is authorized to originate the prefix. Further, each network
939 operator that has deployed BGP-PV is given a resource certificate for their AS number, and the
940 BGP-PV routers within the AS are given router certificates and private keys for signing updates.
941 The certificates for all BGP-PV routers are retrieved by all participating ASes, and the public
942 keys of all BGP-PV routers are expected to be available at each BGP-PV router. In Figure 8,
943 AS1 uses its private key to generate its signature, SIG1-2, attesting that it sent a route for
944 10.1.0.0/16 to AS2. The target AS is included in the data that is under the signature. Likewise,
945 AS2 signs the route to AS3 and so on. Each AS adds its signature as it propagates the update to
946 its neighbors. The update includes the subject key identifier (SKI) for the public key of each AS
947 in the path (i.e., the public key of the BGP-PV router in the AS). AS5 receives an update with
948 four signatures (one corresponding to each hop). If all signatures verify correctly at AS 5, and the
949 origin validation check also passes, then AS5 can be certain that the received update for
950 10.1.0.0/16 with AS path [AS1 (origin), AS2, AS3, AS4] is legitimate (i.e., not corrupted by
951 prefix or path modifications along the way). For example, in Figure 8, AS6 would fail if it were
952 to try to fake a connection to AS1 and announce a signed BGPsec update to AS5 (with a shorter
953 path and a forged-origin AS1). This is because AS6 does not have an update signed to it directly
954 from AS1.



955

956

Figure 8: Basic principle of signing/validating AS paths in BGP updates

¹⁵ See [RFC8205] for a detailed protocol specification.

957 The ECDSA-P256 algorithm is currently recommended for signing BGPsec updates between
958 ASes that peer with each other [RFC8208]. Updates will have a larger size due to the addition of
959 a 64-byte ECDSA P-256 signature for each hop. Also, the route processors in BGP-PV routers
960 will be required to perform additional processing due to signing and verification of path
961 signatures. The performance characterization of BGP-PV quantifying routing information base
962 (RIB) size and routing convergence time has been reported in [Sriram1]. High performance
963 implementations of the cryptographic operations (ECC signing and verifications) associated with
964 BGPsec update processing are available [Adalier1] [Adalier2] [NIST-SRx]. Optimization
965 algorithms for BGPsec update processing are proposed and analyzed in [Sriram2].

966 To reduce upgrade costs and encourage faster deployment, a leaf or stub AS is allowed to trust
967 its upstream AS and negotiate to receive unsigned updates while it sends signed updates to the
968 upstream AS [RFC8205].

969 The standards for BGP-PV are documented in IETF RFC's #8205 through #8210. When
970 implementations based on these standards become available in commercial products, this
971 document may be updated to recommend BGP-PV.

972 **4.8 Checking AS Path for Disallowed AS Numbers**

973 The AS path in an update received in eBGP is checked to make sure that there is no AS loop
974 [RFC4271]. This is done by checking that the AS number of the local system does not appear in
975 the received AS path. The AS path is also checked to ensure that AS numbers meant for special
976 purposes [IANA-ASN-sp] are not present. Note that the special purpose ASN 23456 is allocated
977 for AS_TRANS [RFC6793] and can be present in an AS_PATH in conjunction with an
978 AS4_PATH [RFC 6793] in the update.

979 **Security Recommendation 36:** The AS path in an update received in eBGP should be
980 checked to ensure that the local AS number is not present. The AS path should also be
981 checked to ensure that AS numbers meant for special purposes [IANA-ASN-sp] are not
982 present.¹⁶ In case of a violation, the update should be rejected.

983 **4.9 Route Leak Solution**

984 Section 2.3 described the route leaks problem space and noted that in RFC 7908 [RFC7908], the
985 various types of route leaks are enumerated. Section 2.3 also defined some basic terms used in
986 discussions of route leaks. Route leak solutions fall into two categories: intra-AS and inter-AS
987 (across AS hops). Many operators currently use an intra-AS solution, which is done by tagging
988 BGP updates from ingress to egress (within the AS) using a BGP community [NANOG-list].
989 The BGP community used is non-transitive because it does not propagate in eBGP (between
990 ASes). Each BGP update is tagged on ingress to indicate that it was received in eBGP from a
991 customer, lateral peer, or transit provider. Further, a route that originated within the AS is tagged
992 to indicate the same. At the egress point, the sending router applies an egress policy that makes
993 use of the tagging. Routes that are received from a customer are allowed on the egress to be

¹⁶ Note that the special purpose ASN 23456 is allocated for AS_TRANS [RFC6793] and is allowed to be present in an AS_PATH in conjunction with an AS4_PATH [RFC 6793] in the update.

994 forwarded to any type of peer (e.g., customer, lateral peer, or transit provider). However, routes
995 received from a lateral peer or transit provider are forwarded only to customers (i.e., they are not
996 allowed to be forwarded to a lateral peer or transit provider). These ingress and egress policies
997 are central to route leak prevention within an AS (intra-AS).

998 **Security Recommendation 37:** An AS operator should have an ingress policy to tag
999 routes internally (locally within the AS) to communicate from ingress to egress regarding
1000 the type of peer (customer, lateral peer, or transit provider) from which the route was
1001 received.

1002 **Security Recommendation 38:** An AS operator should have an egress policy to utilize
1003 the tagged information (in Security Recommendation 37) to prevent route leaks when
1004 routes are forwarded on the egress. The AS should not forward routes received from a
1005 transit provider to another transit provider or a lateral peer. Also, the AS should not
1006 forward routes received from a lateral peer to another lateral peer or a transit provider.

1007 The above intra-AS solution for the prevention of route leaks can also be implemented using a
1008 BGP attribute (instead of BGP community). The advantage of an attribute-based solution
1009 [RouteLeak2] is that it can be made available in commercial routers as a standard feature, which
1010 in turn minimizes manual network operator actions. However, such a solution involves an update
1011 to the BGP protocol [RFC4271] and requires standardization, which takes time and is currently
1012 in progress in the IETF [RouteLeak2].

1013 The second type of inter-AS solution is intended to work in eBGP across AS hops. With the
1014 inter-AS solution, the focus shifts to detection and mitigation in case a route leak has already
1015 occurred and started to propagate. If a leak indeed propagates out of an AS, then the peer AS or
1016 any AS along the subsequent AS path should be able to detect and stop it. A solution for inter-
1017 AS route leak detection and mitigation is also work in progress in the IETF [RouteLeak1]
1018 [RouteLeak3].

1019 For robustness of the internet routing infrastructure, inter-AS route leak detection and mitigation
1020 capabilities will also need to be implemented in addition to the intra-AS prevention capability.
1021 When mechanisms for route leak detection and mitigation capabilities are standardized and
1022 become available in products, this document will be updated to include appropriate security
1023 recommendations to reflect the same.

1024 **4.10 Generalized TTL Security Mechanism (GTSM)**

1025 Time to Live (TTL) is an 8-bit field in each IP packet and is decremented by one on each hop.
1026 The Generalized TTL Security Mechanism (GTSM) [RFC5082] makes use of the TTL to
1027 provide an additional security mechanism for BGP messages. Typically, a BGP session runs
1028 between adjacent BGP routers, meaning BGP messages come from one hop away. Across such a
1029 BGP session, the sending router sets TTL to 255 on each BGP message, and the receiving router
1030 expects the incoming TTL to be 255 and rejects any BGP messages that have incoming TTL <
1031 255. The expected TTL value in GTSM can be applied on a per-peer basis for each BGP session.
1032 In rare instances, if a BGP session with a specific peer is known to run over n hops, then the
1033 expected TTL for that session can be adjusted to a suitable value (255-n+1 in this case) in

1034 accordance with the number of hops. Thus, GTSM helps detect and reject spoofed BGP
1035 messages that may come from an attacker. Additional details regarding the operation of GTSM
1036 can be found in [RFC5082].

1037 **Security Recommendation 39:** The Generalized TTL Security Mechanism (GTSM)
1038 [RFC5082] should be applied on a per-peer basis to provide protection against spoofed
1039 BGP messages.

1040 **5 Securing Against DDoS & Reflection Amplification – Solutions and** 1041 **Recommendations**¹⁷

1042 There are various existing techniques and recommendations for deterrence against DDoS attacks
1043 with spoofed addresses [BCP38] [BCP84] [NABCOP] [CSRIC4-WG5]. There are also some
1044 techniques used for preventing reflection amplification attacks [RRL] [TA14-017A], which are
1045 used to achieve greater impact in DDoS attacks. Employing a combination of these preventive
1046 techniques in enterprise and ISP border routers, hosted service provider networks, DNS/NTP
1047 servers, broadband and wireless access networks, and data centers provides the necessary
1048 protections against DDoS attacks.

1049 **5.1 Source Address Validation Techniques**

1050 Source address validation (SAV) is performed in network edge devices, such as border routers,
1051 cable modem termination systems (CMTS) [RFC4036], digital subscriber line access
1052 multiplexers (DSLAM), and packet data network gateways (PDN-GW) in mobile networks
1053 [Firmin]. Ingress/egress access control lists (ACLs) and unicast Reverse Path Forwarding (uRPF)
1054 are techniques employed for implementing SAV [BCP38] [BCP84] [ISOC] [RFC6092; REC-5,
1055 REC-6]. Ingress SAV applies to incoming (received) packets, and egress SAV applies to
1056 outgoing (transmitted) packets.

1057 Definitions of terms used in this section such as transit provider, lateral peer, peering relationship
1058 (C2P, p2p), and customer cone were provided in Section 2.3. In addition, the Reverse Path
1059 Forwarding list (RPF list) is defined as the “list of permissible source-address prefixes for
1060 incoming data packets on a given interface.”

1061 **5.1.1 SAV Using Access Control Lists**

1062 Ingress/egress access control lists (ACLs) are maintained with a list of acceptable (or
1063 alternatively, unacceptable) prefixes for the source addresses in the incoming/outgoing internet
1064 protocol (IP) packets. Any packet with a source address that does not match the filter is dropped.
1065 The ACLs for the ingress/egress filters need to be maintained to keep them up to date. Hence,
1066 this method may be operationally difficult or infeasible in dynamic environments, such as when
1067 a customer network is multi-homed, has address space allocations from multiple ISPs, or
1068 dynamically varies its BGP announcements (i.e., routing) for traffic engineering purposes.

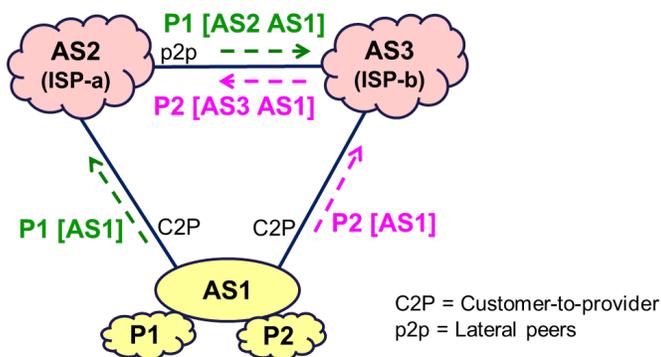
1069 Typically, the egress ACLs in access aggregation devices (e.g., CMTS, DSLAM, PDN-GW)
1070 permit source addresses only from the address spaces (prefixes) that are associated with the
1071 interface on which the customer network is connected. Ingress ACLs are typically deployed on
1072 border routers and drop ingress packets when the source address is spoofed (i.e., belongs to
1073 obviously disallowed prefix blocks—prefixes marked “False” in column “Global” [IANA-v4-sp]
1074 [IANA-v6-sp], the enterprise’s own prefixes, or the ISP’s internal-use only prefixes).

¹⁷ Parts of the material in this section related to the review of existing SAV/uRPF technology read like corresponding parts in [EFP-uRPF] since the authors worked on both documents in parallel and found it prudent to use the same or similar review material in both places. The IETF general rule is that original authors retain copyright. See <https://trustee.ietf.org/reproduction-rfcs-faq.html>.

1075 **5.1.2 SAV Using Strict Unicast Reverse Path Forwarding**

1076 **Terminology:** In the figures (scenarios) in this section and the subsequent sections, the following
 1077 terminology is used: "fails" means drops packets with legitimate source addresses; "works (but
 1078 not desirable)" means passes all packets with legitimate source addresses but is oblivious to
 1079 directionality; "works best" means passes all packets with legitimate source addresses with no
 1080 (or minimal) compromise of directionality. Further, the notation P_i [AS_n AS_m ...] denotes a BGP
 1081 update with prefix P_i and an AS_PATH as shown in the square brackets.

1082 In the strict unicast Reverse Path Forwarding (uRPF) method, an ingress packet on an interface
 1083 at the border router is accepted only if the forwarding information base (FIB) contains a prefix
 1084 that encompasses the source address and packet forwarding for that prefix points to the interface
 1085 in consideration. In other words, the selected best path for routing to that source address (if it
 1086 were used as a destination address) should point to the interface under consideration. This
 1087 method has limitations when a network or autonomous system is multi-homed, routes are not
 1088 symmetrically announced to all transit providers, and there is asymmetric routing of data
 1089 packets. As an example, asymmetric routing occurs (see Figure 9, Scenario 1) when a customer
 1090 AS announces one prefix (P1) to one transit provider (ISP-a) and a different prefix (P2) to
 1091 another transit provider (ISP-b) but routes data packets with source addresses in the second
 1092 prefix (P2) to the first transit provider (ISP-a) or vice versa. Then data packets with a source
 1093 address in prefix P2 that are received at AS2 directly from AS1 will be dropped. Further, data
 1094 packets with a source address in prefix P1 that originate from AS1 and traverse via AS3 to AS2
 1095 will also be dropped at AS2.



Consider data packet received at AS2 (a) from AS1 with source address in P2 or (b) via AS3 that originated from AS1 with source address in P1:

- ✗ Strict uRPF fails
- ✗ Feasible-path uRPF fails (since routes for P1, P2 are selectively announced to different upstream ISPs)
- ✓ Loose uRPF works (but not desirable)
- ✓ Enhanced feasible-path uRPF works best

1096

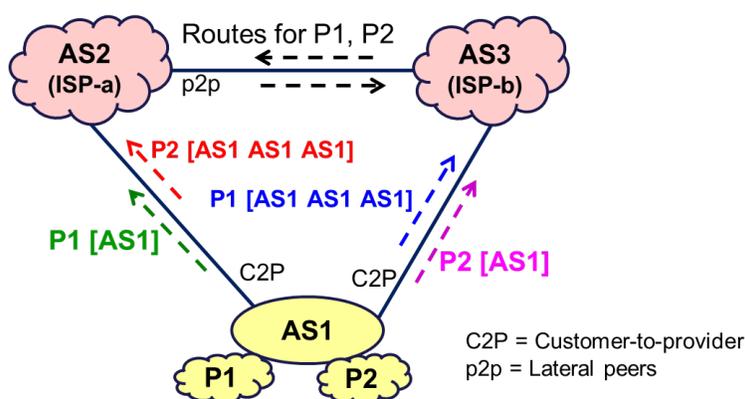
1097

Figure 9: Scenario 1 for illustration of efficacy of uRPF schemes

1098 **5.1.3 SAV Using Feasible-Path Unicast Reverse Path Forwarding**

1099 The feasible-path uRPF helps partially overcome the problem identified with the strict uRPF in

1100 the multi-homing case. The feasible-path uRPF is similar to the strict uRPF, but in addition to
 1101 inserting the best-path prefix, additional prefixes from alternative announced routes (on the
 1102 interface under consideration) are also included in the RPF list (see definition at the top of
 1103 Section 5.1). This method relies on either (a) announcements for the same prefixes (albeit some
 1104 may be prepended to affect lower preference) propagating to all transit providers performing
 1105 feasible-path uRPF checks or (b) announcement of an aggregate less-specific prefix to all transit
 1106 providers while announcing more-specific prefixes (covered by the less-specific prefix) to
 1107 different transit providers as needed for traffic engineering. As an example, in the multi-homing
 1108 scenario (see Figure 10, Scenario 2), if the customer AS announces routes for both prefixes (P1,
 1109 P2) to both transit providers (with suitable prepends if needed for traffic engineering), then the
 1110 feasible-path uRPF method works. The feasible-path uRPF only works in this scenario if
 1111 customer routes are preferred at AS2 and AS3 over a shorter non-customer route.



Consider data packet received at AS2 via AS3 that originated from AS1 with source address in P1:

- ✓ Feasible-path uRPF works (if customer route preferred at AS3 over shorter path)
- ✗ Feasible-path uRPF fails (if shorter path preferred at AS3 over customer route)
- ✓ Loose uRPF works (but not desirable)
- ✓ Enhanced feasible-path uRPF works best

1112

1113

Figure 10: Scenario 2 for illustration of efficacy of uRPF schemes

1114 However, the feasible-path uRPF method has limitations as well. One form of limitation
 1115 naturally occurs when the recommendation of propagating the same prefixes to all routers is not
 1116 heeded. Another form of limitation can be described as follows: in Scenario 2 (illustrated in
 1117 Figure 10), it is possible that the second transit provider AS3 (ISP-b) does not propagate the
 1118 prepended route (i.e., P1 [AS1 AS1 AS1]) to the first transit provider AS2 (ISP-a). This is
 1119 because ISP-b's decision policy permits giving priority to a shorter route to prefix P1 via ISP-a
 1120 over a longer route learned directly from the customer (AS1). In such a scenario, AS3 (ISP-b)
 1121 would not send any route announcement for prefix P1 to AS2 (ISP-a). Then, a data packet
 1122 originated from AS1 with a source address in prefix P1 that traverses via AS3 (ISP-b) will be
 1123 dropped at AS2 (ISP-a).

1124 **5.1.4 SAV Using Loose Unicast Reverse Path Forwarding**

1125 In the loose unicast Reverse Path Forwarding (uRPF) method, an ingress packet at the border
1126 router is accepted only if the FIB has one or more prefixes that encompasses the source address.
1127 That is, a packet is dropped if no route exists in the FIB for the source address. Loose uRPF
1128 sacrifices directionality. This method is not very effective for preventing address spoofing. It
1129 only drops packets if the spoofed address is non-routable (e.g., belongs to obviously disallowed
1130 prefix blocks—prefixes marked “False” in column “Global” [IANA-v4-sp] [IANA-v6-sp],
1131 unallocated, or allocated but currently not routed). It may be noted that the method is more useful
1132 for IPv6 than IPv4.

1133 **5.1.5 SAV Using VRF Table**

1134 Virtual routing and forwarding (VRF) technology [RFC4364] [Juniper5] allows a router to
1135 maintain multiple routing table instances separate from the global routing information base
1136 (RIB). External BGP (eBGP) peering sessions send specific routes to be stored in a dedicated
1137 VRF table. The uRPF process queries the VRF table (instead of the FIB) for source address
1138 validation. A VRF table can be dedicated per eBGP peer and used for uRPF for only that peer,
1139 resulting in a strict mode operation. For implementing loose uRPF on an interface, the
1140 corresponding VRF table would be global (i.e., contains the same routes as in the FIB).

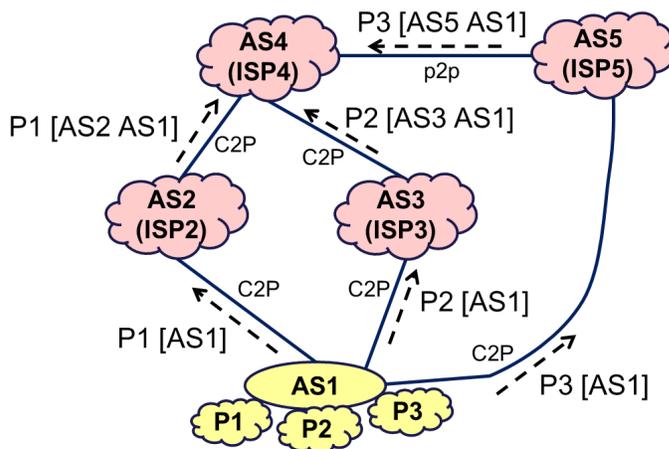
1141 **5.1.6 SAV Using Enhanced Feasible-Path uRPF (Emerging/Future)**

1142 The enhanced feasible-path uRPF (EFP-uRPF) method is currently a work in progress (soon to
1143 be RFC) in the IETF [EFP-uRPF]. It holds promise for providing a significant improvement in
1144 effectiveness and deployability over the feasible-path uRPF. This section briefly describes the
1145 technology and standards effort but does not make a security recommendation concerning the
1146 use of EFP-uRPF at this time.

1147 EFP-uRPF adds greater flexibility and accuracy to uRPF operations than the existing uRPF
1148 methods discussed in Sections 5.1.2 through 5.1.5. The basic principle of the EFP-uRPF method
1149 for enhancing efficacy in multi-homing and asymmetric routing scenarios is as follows: if a route
1150 for prefix P1 is received on customer interface X and has origin AS1, and routes for P2 and P3
1151 are received on other peering interfaces Y and Z but have the same origin AS1, then allow the
1152 flexibility that data packets with a source address in any of these three prefixes (P1, P2, P3) may
1153 be legitimately received on customer interface X. Thus, based on the common origin AS
1154 principle, the prefix list for allowable source addresses in data packets (i.e., the RPF list) is
1155 expanded to include all three prefixes (P1, P2, P3) for customer interface X. Further, the same
1156 principle is applied for determining the prefix list for allowable source addresses for each
1157 customer interface and possibly lateral peer interfaces.

1158 As shown in Scenarios 1 and 2 (Figure 9 and Figure 10), the EFP-uRPF provides comparable or
1159 better performance than other uRPF methods for those scenarios. Scenario 3 (Figure 11) further
1160 illustrates that the EFP-uRPF method works best even in much more complex asymmetric
1161 routing scenarios. In Scenario 3 (Figure 11), the focus is on AS4 receiving data packets with a
1162 source address in {P1, P2, P3}. If EFP-uRPF is used, the operator (at AS4) can be assured that
1163 DDoS mitigation would work effectively, and none of those data packets would be subject to
1164 denial of service. The details concerning EFP-uRPF can be found in [EFP-uRPF]. Since it is still

1165 a work in progress, no security recommendations involving EFP-uRPF are offered here.



Consider that data packets (sourced from AS1) may be received on customer interfaces at AS4 with source addresses in P1, P2, or P3:

- ✗ Feasible-path uRPF fails
- ✓ Loose uRPF works (but not desirable)
- ✓ Enhanced feasible-path uRPF works best

1166

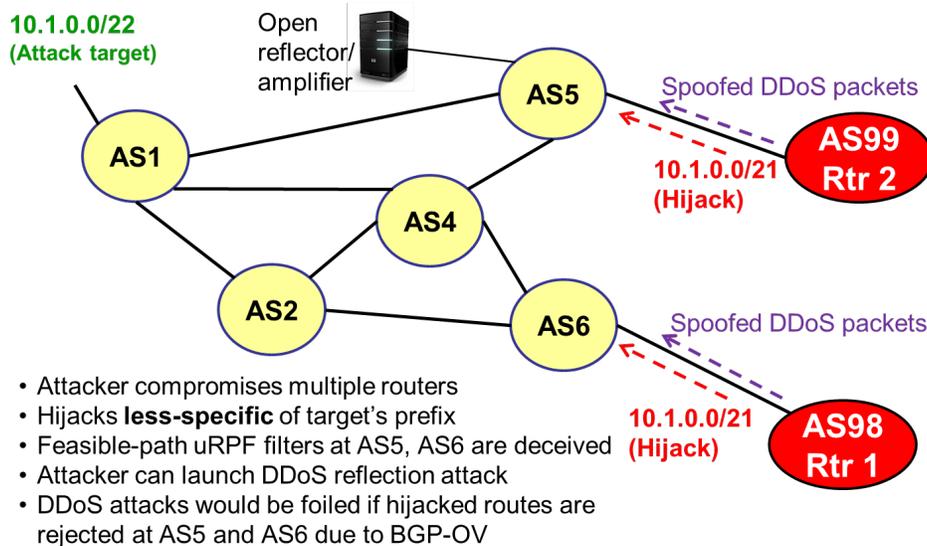
1167

Figure 11: Scenario 3 for illustration of efficacy of uRPF schemes

1168

5.1.7 More Effective Mitigation with Combination of Origin Validation and SAV

1169 With the combination of BGP origin validation (BGP-OV) (see Section 4.3) and the SAV
 1170 (uRPF) techniques discussed above, a stronger defense against address spoofing and DDoS is
 1171 made possible. A determined DDoS attacker can subvert any of the uRPF methods by
 1172 performing prefix hijacking followed by source address spoofing as illustrated in Figure 12. In
 1173 the scenario in Figure 12, the attacker first compromises routers (or perhaps owns some of them)
 1174 at AS98 and AS99, and then falsely announces a less-specific prefix (e.g., 10.1.0.0/21)
 1175 encompassing the target’s prefix (e.g., 10.1.0.0/22). It is assumed that there is currently no
 1176 legitimate announcement of the less-specific prefix (10.1.0.0/21). The feasible-path uRPF (FP-
 1177 uRPF) filters at AS5 and AS6 are effectively deceived, and the attacker possibly stays under the
 1178 radar because the hijacked prefix is a less-specific prefix. The attacker would then be able to
 1179 successfully perform address spoofing and DDoS with reflection amplification. To protect
 1180 against this type of multipronged attack, the combination of BGP-OV (to prevent the hijacking)
 1181 and FP-uRPF or EFP-uRPF (to prevent the address spoofing) should be employed. For this to
 1182 work, the owners of the prefixes (10.1.0.0/22 and 10.1.0.0/21) should create ROAs, and all ASes
 1183 (especially, AS5 and AS6) in Figure 12 should perform BGP-OV in addition to employing SAV
 1184 using the FP-uRPF/EFP-uRPF method.



1185

1186

Figure 12: Illustration of how origin validation complements SAV

1187 5.2 SAV Recommendations for Various Types of Networks

1188 Three types of network scenarios are considered here, and SAV security recommendations are
 1189 provided for each scenario. The network types are: 1) networks that have customers with directly
 1190 connected allocated address space, such as broadband and wireless service providers; 2)
 1191 enterprise networks; and 3) internet service providers (ISPs).

1192 When a government agency or enterprise procures the services of a hosted service provider or
 1193 transit ISP, the security recommendations listed here should be considered for inclusion in the
 1194 service contracts as appropriate.

1195 5.2.1 Customer with Directly Connected Allocated Address Space: Broadband and 1196 Wireless Service Providers

1197 SAV with ACLs is relatively easy when a network served by an ISP's edge device (e.g., border
 1198 router, CMTS, DSLAM, PDN-GW) is directly connected and using an IP address space that is
 1199 suballocated by the ISP. Hence, SAV using the ACL method should always be used in such
 1200 cases. For the egress packets (i.e., packets transiting via the edge device onto the internet), the
 1201 source address must be within the allocated space. As an example, the Data Over Cable Service
 1202 Interface Specification 3.1 (DOCSIS 3.1) standard for CMTS already incorporates this security
 1203 check [DOCSIS] [Comcast] [RFC4036].

1204 **Security Recommendation 40:** BGP routers that have directly connected customers
 1205 with suballocated address space, CMTS (or equivalent) in broadband access networks,
 1206 and PDN-GW (or equivalent) in mobile networks should implement SAV using ACLs
 1207 (Section 5.1.1). The BGP routers in this context may alternatively use the strict uRPF
 1208 method (Section 5.1.2).

1209 5.2.2 Enterprise Border Routers

1210 The SAV security recommendations for enterprise border routers vary based on the
1211 egress/ingress nature of the data packets. Included here are recommendations concerning the
1212 routing control plane (BGP updates) as well.

1213 **Security Recommendation 41:** An enterprise border router that is multi-homed should
1214 always announce all of its address space to each of its upstream transit providers. This can
1215 be done in one of two ways: 1) announce an aggregate less-specific prefix to all transit
1216 providers and more-specific prefixes (covered by the less-specific prefix) to different
1217 transit providers as needed for traffic engineering, or 2) announce the same prefixes to each
1218 transit provider (albeit with suitable prepending for traffic engineering).¹⁸

1219 **Security Recommendation 42:** This is the exception case when the enterprise border
1220 router does not adhere to Security Recommendation 41 and instead selectively announces
1221 some prefixes to one upstream transit ISP and other prefixes to another upstream transit
1222 ISP. In this case, the enterprise should route data (by appropriate internal routing) such that
1223 the source addresses in the data packets towards each upstream transit ISP belong in the
1224 prefix or prefixes announced to that ISP.

1225 **Security Recommendation 43:** On the ingress side (i.e., for data packets received from
1226 the transit ISP), enterprise border routers should deploy loose uRPF (Section 5.1.4) and/or
1227 ACLs (Section 5.1.1) to drop packets when the source address is spoofed (i.e., belongs to
1228 obviously disallowed prefix blocks—prefixes marked “False” in column “Global” [IANA-
1229 v4-sp] [IANA-v6-sp] and the enterprise’s own prefixes).

1230 **Security Recommendation 44:** An enterprise (i.e., a leaf AS with or without multi-
1231 homing) should allow on the egress side (i.e., for data packets sent to the transit ISP) only
1232 those packets with source addresses that belong in their own prefixes.

1233 5.2.3 Internet Service Providers

1234 The SAV security recommendations for ISPs vary based on the ingress/egress of packets as well
1235 as the relationship with the peer (e.g., customer, lateral peer, transit provider).

1236 **Security Recommendation 45:** On customer-facing interfaces, smaller ISPs should
1237 perform SAV on ingress packets by deploying the feasible-path uRPF (see Section 5.1.3).
1238 They should avoid using strict or loose uRPF as they are not effective, especially in the
1239 case of multi-homed customers. It is recognized that larger ISPs may use loose uRPF on
1240 customer interfaces.¹⁹

¹⁸ By following Security Recommendation 41, the enterprise border router ensures that the transit ISP’s border routers discard (due to uRPF) only those data packets from the enterprise that do not have source addresses belonging in any of the enterprise’s announced prefixes. Thus, it also ensures that data packets from the enterprise that have source addresses belonging in any of the enterprise’s announced prefixes are never denied.

¹⁹ In the future, the enhanced feasible-path uRPF [EFP-uRPF] may be considered based on the availability of commercial implementation (see Section 5.1.6).

1241 **Security Recommendation 46:** For feasible-path uRPF to work appropriately, a
 1242 smaller ISP (especially one that is near the internet edge) should propagate all of its
 1243 announced address space to each of its upstream transit providers. This can be done in one
 1244 of two ways: 1) announce an aggregate less-specific prefix to all transit providers and
 1245 announce more-specific prefixes (covered by the less-specific prefix) to different transit
 1246 providers as needed for traffic engineering, or 2) announce the same prefixes to each transit
 1247 provider (albeit with suitable prepending for traffic engineering).

1248 **Security Recommendation 47:** ISPs should prefer customer routes over other (i.e.,
 1249 transit provider or lateral peer) routes. (This is also normal ISP policy in most cases.)²⁰

1250 **Security Recommendation 48:** On interfaces with lateral (i.e., non-transit) peers,
 1251 smaller ISPs (near the edge of the internet) should perform SAV on ingress packets by
 1252 deploying the feasible-path uRPF (see Section 5.1.3). They should avoid using strict or
 1253 loose uRPF as they are not very effective for SAV on the lateral peer interfaces. It is
 1254 recognized that larger ISPs may use loose uRPF on the interfaces with lateral peers.

1255 **Security Recommendation 49:** On interfaces with transit providers, ISPs should
 1256 perform SAV on ingress packets by deploying loose uRPF (see Section 5.1.4) and/or ACLs
 1257 (see Section 5.1.1) to drop packets when the source address is spoofed (i.e., belongs to
 1258 obviously disallowed prefix blocks—prefixes marked “False” in column “Global” [IANA-
 1259 v4-sp] [IANA-v6-sp] and the ISP’s internal-use only prefixes).

1260 **Security Recommendation 50:** On the egress side towards customers, lateral (i.e.,
 1261 non-transit) peers, and transit providers, the ISP’s border routers should deploy ACLs (see
 1262 Section 5.1.1) to drop packets when the source address is spoofed (i.e., belongs to
 1263 obviously disallowed prefix blocks—prefixes marked “False” in column “Global” [IANA-
 1264 v4-sp] [IANA-v6-sp] and the ISP’s internal-use only prefixes).

1265 5.3 Role of RPKI in Source Address Validation

1266 A method was described in Section 4.6 on how ISPs can use the ROAs in RPKI registries to
 1267 assist with the construction of prefix filters. The same technique can be applied to constructing
 1268 ACLs for SAV on each customer-facing interface. These ACLs can be used to cross-check
 1269 and/or augment entries in the RPF lists corresponding to each customer-facing interface.

1270 **Security Recommendation 51:** Smaller ISPs should use the ROA data (available from
 1271 RPKI registries) to construct and/or augment ACLs/RPF lists for SAV for ingress packets
 1272 on customer interfaces.

²⁰ Security Recommendation 46 is also one of the stability conditions on BGP policy for ensuring stable convergence of routing information [Gao-Rexford].

1273 **5.4 Monitoring UDP/TCP Ports with Vulnerable Applications and Employing Traffic**
1274 **Filtering**

1275 DDoS threats involving vulnerable applications using various UDP/TCP ports and IoT devices
1276 are continually evolving and varied (e.g., memcached DDoS reflection attacks and SSDP
1277 diffraction, etc. [Bjarnason]). Hence, traffic filtering methods mentioned in this section are not
1278 meant to be exhaustive.

1279 Traffic monitoring and filtering based on specific User Datagram Protocol (UDP) and
1280 Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) ports are done to deny traffic of certain application types
1281 that are not expected on a given interface under consideration [TA14-017A] [Acunetix] [ISC2]
1282 [Arbor]. In some cases, the applications may be legitimate, but the observed traffic volumes may
1283 be suspiciously high, in which case response rate limiting is applied [Redbarn] [ISC1].

1284 In the case of the DNS (Port 53), the enterprise internal DNS resolver can limit the scope of
1285 clients from which it will accept requests. The clients normally come from within the same
1286 enterprise network where the DNS resolver resides. Hence, the DNS recursive resolver can
1287 maintain access lists in the configuration so that an otherwise open DNS resolver can be
1288 effectively “closed” [ISOC]. Another effective measure is for the authoritative DNS resolvers to
1289 monitor the rate of queries per source address and apply response rate limiting (RRL), which
1290 dampens the rate at which authoritative servers respond to high volumes of malicious queries
1291 [Redbarn] [ISC1].

1292 Table 1, below, lists application layer protocols and their port numbers [TA14-017A] [Akamai].
1293 The UDP-based applications have been identified as vulnerable to reflection/amplification
1294 attacks. In Table 1, the amplification factor listed for each protocol is the traffic volume
1295 multiplier that can be achieved by exploiting the reflection/amplification effect of that protocol
1296 run on UDP [TA14-017A] [Akamai]. Port assignment status is called “Official” if officially
1297 assigned by IANA; otherwise it is “Unofficial” [TCP-UDP-port].

1298

Table 1: Common Applications and their TCP/UDP Port Numbers

Application Protocol	Bandwidth Amplification Factor	Port #	Port Assignment Status
Domain Name System (DNS)	28 to 54	53, 853, 953	Official
Network Time Protocol (NTP)	557	123	Official
Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP), SNMPv2	6	161	Official
NetBIOS Name/Datagram/Session	4	137/138/139	Official
Simple Service Discovery Protocol (SSDP); discovery of UPnP devices	31	1900	Official
Character Generation Protocol (CharGEN)	359	19	Official
Quote of the Day (QOTD)	140	17	Official
BitTorrent	4	6881-6887; 6889-90; 6891-6900; etc. various ranges	Unofficial
Kad Network (Kademlia P2P overlay protocol)	16	6419, 6429	Unofficial
Quake Network Protocol	64	15, 28, 27500-27900, 27901-27910, 27950, 27952, 27960-27969, etc.	Unofficial
Streaming Protocols (e.g., QuickTime)		6970-9999, etc.	Unofficial
Real-Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP); ms-streaming		554, 1755	Official
Routing Information Protocol (RIP, RIPng)	131	520, 521	Official
Multicast DNS (mDNS)	2 to 10	5353	Official
Portmap/Remote Procedure Call (RPC)RPC	7 to 28	111, 369	Official
Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP); Connection-less LDAP (CLDAP)	70	389	Official

1299

1300 The following set of security recommendations pertain to vulnerable applications such as those
1301 listed in Table 1:

1302 **Security Recommendation 52:** In BGP routers, allow peers to connect to only port
1303 179. The standard port for receiving BGP session OPEN messages is port 179, so attempts
1304 by BGP peers to reach other ports are likely to indicate faulty configuration or potential
1305 malicious activity.

1306 **Security Recommendation 53:** Disable applications or services that are unwanted in
1307 the network or system under consideration.

1308 **Security Recommendation 54:** Deny traffic for any TCP/UDP ports for which the
1309 network or system under consideration does not support the corresponding applications. In
1310 some cases, an application or service is supported on some interfaces (e.g., customer or
1311 internal-facing interfaces) but not others (e.g., internet-facing interfaces). In such cases, the
1312 traffic with a port ID specific to the application under consideration should be denied on
1313 interfaces on which the application is not supported.

1314 **Security Recommendation 55:** This recommendation is aimed at the detection of
1315 traffic overload and mitigating actions. The relevant mitigation techniques are response rate
1316 limiting (RRL) [ISC1] [Redbarn] and source-based remotely triggered black hole
1317 (S/RTBH) filtering enabled with Flowspec [RFC5575] (see Section 5.5). These techniques
1318 are applicable to open services/protocols such as those listed in Table 1, which are
1319 themselves vulnerable to DoS/DDoS attacks or may be exploited for
1320 reflection/amplification. The recommendation consists of multiple steps as follows [TA14-
1321 017A]:

- 1322
- 1323 • Monitor the rate of queries/requests per source address and detect if an abnormally
1324 high volume of responses is headed to the same destination (i.e., same IP address).
 - 1325 • Apply the response rate limiting (RRL) technique to mitigate the attack.²¹
 - 1326 • Using BGP messaging (Flowspec), create a remotely triggered black hole (RTBH)
1327 filter. This can be coordinated with the upstream ISP.
 - 1328 • Maintain emergency contact information for the upstream provider to coordinate a
1329 response to the attack.
 - An upstream ISP should actively coordinate responses with downstream customers.

1330 The security recommendations that follow below are specific to NTP and DNS:

1331 **Security Recommendation 56:** Deny NTP monlist request traffic (by disabling the
1332 monlist command) altogether, or enforce that the requests come from valid (permitted)
1333 source addresses.

²¹ The RRL technique is commonly used in DNS and dampens the rate at which authoritative servers respond to high volumes of malicious queries. It can also be applied in other applications (shown in Table 1) for dampening the response rate.

1334 **Security Recommendation 57:** To limit exploitation, an enterprise internal DNS
1335 recursive resolver should limit the scope of clients from which it accepts requests. The
1336 clients normally come from within the same enterprise network where the DNS resolver
1337 resides. Hence, the DNS recursive resolver can maintain access lists in the configuration so
1338 that it is not open to the entire internet [ISOC] [TA14-017A].

1339 **Security Recommendation 58:** An enterprise should block UDP/Port 53 and TCP/Port
1340 53 for ingress and egress at the network boundary; exceptions to this include designated
1341 enterprise recursive resolvers that need to send queries and designated enterprise
1342 authoritative servers that must listen for queries.

1343 Concerning Security Recommendation 58, the purpose of blocking on egress is to block stub
1344 resolvers (on hosts) from sending their own queries out to the Internet and instead make sure
1345 they use an enterprise recursive resolver. Likewise, the purpose of blocking on ingress is to block
1346 attacks or “rogue” recursive resolvers from being used in attacks by blocking traffic from
1347 reaching them.

1348 DNS, LDAP, and other DDoS amplification protocols generate significant amounts of UDP
1349 fragment traffic. It is possible to reduce the impact of DDoS amplification traffic by rate limiting
1350 UDP fragments at an ISP’s peering edges.

1351 **Security Recommendation 59:** An ISP should perform rate limiting of UDP fragment
1352 traffic at edge routers facing customers and lateral peers.

1353 **5.5 BGP Flow Specification (Flowspec)**

1354 Destination-based remotely triggered black-holing (D/RTBH) [RFC3882] [RFC7999] and
1355 source-based remotely triggered black-holing (S/RTBH) [RFC5635] (the latter in conjunction
1356 with uRPF) have been used as techniques for DDoS mitigation. However, with the
1357 standardization and vendor support of Flowspec [RFC5575] [RFC7674] [Hares] [Ryburn]
1358 [Cisco4] [Juniper4], the basic principles of D/RTBH and S/RTBH are significantly enhanced and
1359 can be operationally deployed in a fine-grained, dynamic, and efficient way. Operational
1360 experience with Flowspec for DDoS mitigation has been reported in [Levy2] [Compton].

1361 In D/RTBH, a BGP message is sent to trigger the provider edge (PE) routers (within the victim’s
1362 AS or its transit provider AS) to block ingress traffic to the specified IP address where the
1363 affected server resides. In S/RTBH, a BGP message is sent to trigger the provider edge (PE)
1364 routers (within the victim’s AS or its transit provider AS) to block ingress traffic from the
1365 specified IP address that is the source address employed by the attacker. In S/RTBH, loose uRPF
1366 is used to filter traffic from the specified source address. In the BGP Flowspec mechanism, a
1367 flow specification NLRI is defined and used to convey information about filtering rules for
1368 traffic that should be discarded [RFC5575]. This mechanism allows an upstream AS to perform
1369 inbound filtering in their edge routers of traffic that a given downstream AS wishes to drop.
1370 Table 2 shows the information that can be included in BGP Flowspec [RFC5575].

1371

Table 2: BGP Flowspec types

Type 1	Destination Prefix
Type 2	Source Prefix
Type 3	IP Protocol
Type 4	Source or Destination Port
Type 5	Destination Port
Type 6	Source Port
Type 7	ICMP Type
Type 8	ICMP Code
Type 9	TCP flags
Type 10	Packet length
Type 11	DSCP
Type 12	Fragment Encoding

1372

1373 Table 3 shows the extended community values that are defined to specify various types of
1374 actions [RFC5575] requested at the upstream AS.

1375

Table 3: Extended community values defined in Flowspec to specify various types of actions

Type	Extended Community	Encoding
0x8006	Traffic-rate (set to 0 to drop all traffic)	2-byte as#, 4-byte float
0x8007	Traffic-action (sampling)	Bitmask
0x8008	Redirect to VRF (route target)	6-byte route target
0x8009	Traffic-marking	DSCP value

1376 In the table above, VRF stands for “virtual routing and forwarding,” and DSCP stands for
1377 “differentiated services code point”. Flowspec facilitates flexible specification and
1378 communication (by downstream AS) of rules and actions for DDoS mitigation to be executed at
1379 edge routers in the upstream AS.

1380 **Security Recommendation 60:** Edge routers should be equipped to perform
1381 destination-based remotely triggered black hole (D/RTBH) filtering and source-based
1382 remotely triggered black hole (S/RTBH) filtering.

1383 **Security Recommendation 61:** Edge routers should be equipped to make use of BGP
1384 flow specification (Flowspec) to facilitate DoS/DDoS mitigation (in coordination between
1385 upstream and downstream autonomous systems).

1386 **Security Recommendation 62:** Edge routers in an AS providing RTBH filtering
1387 should have an ingress policy towards RTBH customers to accept routes more specific than
1388 /24 in IPv4 and /48 in IPv6. Additionally, the edge routers should accept a more specific
1389 route (in case of D/RTBH) only if it is subsumed by a less-specific route that the customer
1390 is authorized to announce as standard policy (i.e., the less-specific route has a registered
1391 IRR entry and/or an ROA). Further, the edge routers should not drop RTBH-related more-
1392 specific route advertisements from customers even though BGP origin validation may mark
1393 them as “Invalid.”

1394 **Security Recommendation 63:** A customer AS should make sure that the routes
1395 announced for RTBH filtering have NO_EXPORT, NO_ADVERTISE, or similar
1396 communities.

1397 **Security Recommendation 64:** An ISP providing an RTBH filtering service to
1398 customers must have an egress policy that denies routes that have community tagging
1399 meant for triggering RTBH filtering. This is an additional safeguard in case NO_EXPORT,
1400 NO_ADVERTISE, or similar tagging fails.

1401 **Security Recommendation 65:** An ISP providing an RTBH filtering service to
1402 customers must have an egress policy that denies prefixes that are longer than expected.
1403 This provides added safety in case NO_EXPORT, NO_ADVERTISE, or similar tagging
1404 fails.

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1407 **Appendix A—Consolidated List of Security Recommendations**

1408 Table 4 provides a consolidated list of the security recommendations from various sections
 1409 throughout the document. If the “Enterprise” column is checked, it means that the security
 1410 recommendation should be considered for implementation in enterprise and hosted service
 1411 provider autonomous systems (ASes)—in some cases, action(s) to be performed by the AS
 1412 operator, and in other cases, feature(s) that should be available in their BGP router(s). A similar
 1413 statement applies for ISPs when the “ISP” column is checked. The “Open Servers” column
 1414 pertains to providers of open internet services, such as DNS, DNSSEC, or NTP. When an
 1415 enterprise outsources services, then the feature/service corresponding to a security
 1416 recommendation that applies to them would in turn apply to their hosted service provider. An
 1417 enterprise should always consider (in their service contract) whether their transit ISP meets
 1418 security recommendations that are checked in the ISP column. There is no column in Table 4
 1419 corresponding to an internet exchange point (IXP), but the BGP (control plane) security
 1420 recommendations for ISPs also apply to opaque IXPs (i.e., IXPs that insert their ASN in the AS
 1421 path and operate BGP).

1422 **Table 4: Consolidated List of the Security Recommendations**

Security Recommendation	Applicable to		
	Enter- prise	ISP	Open Servers
BGP Origin Validation:			
Security Recommendation 1: All internet number resources (e.g., address blocks and AS numbers) should be covered by an appropriate registration services agreement with an RIR, and all point-of-contact (POC) information should be up to date. The granularity of such registrations should reflect all sub-allocations to entities (e.g., enterprises within the parent organization, branch offices) that operate their own network services (e.g., internet access, DNS).	X	X	
Security Recommendation 2: In the case of address block (NetRange) registration in ARIN, the originating autonomous system (origin AS) should be included. See https://whois.arin.net/rest/net/NET-128-3-0-0-1/pft?s=128.3.0 .	X	X	
Security Recommendation 3: Route objects corresponding to the BGP routes originating from an AS should be registered and actively maintained in an appropriate RIR’s IRR. Enterprises should ensure that appropriate IRR information exists for all IP	X	X	

address space used directly and by their outsourced IT systems and services.			
Security Recommendation 4: Internet number resource holders with IPv4/IPv6 prefixes and/or AS numbers (ASNs) should obtain RPKI certificate(s) for their resources.	X	X	
Security Recommendation 5: Transit providers should provide a service where they create, publish, and manage subordinate resource certificates for address space and/or ASNs suballocated to their customers. Note: Currently, RPKI services based on the hosted model and offered by RIRs are common. This security recommendation can be implemented in the hosted or delegated model based on service agreements with customers.		X	
Security Recommendation 6: Resource holders should register ROA(s) in the global RPKI for all prefixes that are announced or intended to be announced on the public internet.	X	X	
Security Recommendation 7: Each transit provider should provide a service where they create, publish, and maintain ROAs for prefixes suballocated to their customers. Alternatively, as part of the service, customers can be allowed to create, publish, and maintain their ROAs in a repository maintained by the transit provider. Note: This security recommendation can be implemented in the hosted or delegated model based on service agreements with customers.		X	
Security Recommendation 8: If a prefix that is announced (or intended to be announced) is multi-homed and originated from multiple ASes, then one ROA per originating AS should be registered for the prefix (possibly in combination with other prefixes which are also originated from the same AS).	X	X	
Security Recommendation 9: When an ISP or enterprise owns multiple prefixes that include less-specific and more-specific prefixes, they should ensure that the more-specific prefixes have ROAs before creating ROAs for the subsuming less-specific prefixes.	X	X	
Security Recommendation 10: An ISP should wait until more specific prefixes announced from within their customer cone have ROAs prior to the creation of its own ROAs for subsuming		X	

less-specific prefix(es).			
Security Recommendation 11: An ISP or enterprise should create an AS0 ROA for any prefix that is currently not announced to the public internet. However, this should be done only after ensuring that ROAs exist for any more-specific prefixes subsumed by the prefix that are announced or are intended to be announced.	X	X	
Security Recommendation 12: A BGP router should not send updates with AS_SET or AS_CONFED_SET in them (in compliance with BCP 172 [RFC6472]).	X	X	
Security Recommendation 13: ISPs and enterprises that operate BGP routers should also operate one or more RPKI-validating caches.	X	X	
Security Recommendation 14: A BGP router should maintain an up-to-date white list consisting of {prefix, maxlength, origin ASN} that is derived from valid ROAs in the global RPKI. The router should perform BGP-OV.	X	X	
Security Recommendation 15: In partial/incremental deployment state of the RPKI, the permissible {prefix, origin ASN} pairs for performing BGP-OV should be generated by taking the union of such data obtained from ROAs, IRR data, and customer contracts.	X	X	
Security Recommendation 16: BGP-OV results should be incorporated into local policy decisions to select BGP best paths. Note: Exactly how BGP-OV results are used in path selection is strictly a local policy decision for each network operator. Typical policy choices include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tag-Only – BGP-OV results are only used to tag/log data about BGP routes for diagnostic purposes. • Prefer-Valid – Use local preference settings to give priority to valid routes. Note this is only a tie-breaking preference among routes with the exact same prefix. • Drop-Invalid – Use local policy to ignore invalid routes in the BGP decision process. 	X	X	
Security Recommendation 17: The maxlength in the ROA should not exceed the length of the most specific prefix (subsumed under the prefix in consideration) that is originated or intended to be originated from the AS listed in the ROA.	X	X	

<p>Security Recommendation 18: If a prefix and select more-specific prefixes subsumed under it are announced or intended to be announced, then instead of specifying a maxlength, the prefix and the more-specific prefixes should be listed explicitly in multiple ROAs (i.e., one ROA per prefix or more-specific prefix).</p> <p>Note: In general, the use of maxlength should be avoided unless all or nearly all more-specific prefixes up to a maxlength are announced (or intended to be announced) [maxlength].</p>	X	X	
<p>Prefix (Route) Filtering:</p>			
<p>Security Recommendation 19: IPv6 routes should be filtered to permit only allocated IPv6 prefixes. Network operators should update IPv6 prefix filters regularly to include any newly allocated prefixes.</p> <p>Note: If prefix resource owners regularly register AS0 ROAs (see Section 4.3) for allocated (but possibly currently unused) prefixes, then those ROAs could be a complementary source for the update of prefix filters.</p>	X	X	
<p>Security Recommendation 20: Prefixes that are marked “False” in column “Global” [IANA-v4-sp] [IANA-v6-sp] are forbidden from routing in the global internet and should be rejected if received from an external BGP (eBGP) peer.</p>	X	X	
<p>Security Recommendation 21: For single-homed prefixes (subnets) that are owned and originated by an AS, any routes for those prefixes received at that AS from eBGP peers should be rejected.</p>	X	X	
<p>Security Recommendation 22: It is recommended that an eBGP router should set the specificity limit for each eBGP peer and reject prefixes that exceed the specificity limit on a per-peer basis.</p> <p>Note: The specificity limit may be the same for all peers (e.g., /24 for IPv4 and /48 for IPv6).</p>	X	X	
<p>Security Recommendation 23: The default route (0.0.0.0/0 in IPv4 and ::/0 in IPv6) should be rejected except when a special peering agreement exists that permits accepting it.</p>	X	X	
<p>Security Recommendation 24: An internet exchange point (IXP) should announce—from its route server to all of its member ASes—its LAN prefix or its entire prefix, which would be the</p>	X	X	

<p>same as or less specific than its LAN prefix. Each IXP member AS should, in turn, accept this prefix and reject any more-specific prefixes (of the IXP announced prefix) from any of its eBGP peers.</p>			
<p>Security Recommendation 25: Inbound prefix filtering facing lateral peer – The following prefix filters should be applied in the inbound direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unallocated prefixes • Special-purpose prefixes • Prefixes that the AS originates • Prefixes that exceed a specificity limit • Default route • IXP LAN Prefixes 	X	X	
<p>Security Recommendation 26: Outbound prefix filtering facing lateral peer – The appropriate outbound prefixes are those that are originated by the AS in question and those originated by its downstream ASes (i.e., the ASes in its customer cone). The following prefix filters should be applied in the outbound direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unallocated prefixes • Special-purpose prefixes • Prefixes that exceed a specificity limit • Default route • IXP LAN prefixes • Prefixes learned from AS’s other peers • Prefixes learned from AS’s transit providers 	X	X	
<p>Security Recommendation 27: Inbound prefix filtering facing transit provider – Case 1 (full routing table): In general, when the full routing table is required from the transit provider, the following prefix filters should be applied in the inbound direction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unallocated prefixes • Special-purpose prefixes • Prefixes that the AS originates • Prefixes that exceed a specificity limit • IXP LAN prefixes 	X	X	
<p>Security Recommendation 28: Inbound prefix filtering facing transit provider – Case 2 (default route): If the border router is configured for only the default route, then only the</p>	X	X	

<p>default route should be accepted from the transit provider and nothing else.</p>			
<p>Security Recommendation 29: Outbound prefix filtering facing transit provider: The same outbound prefix filters should be applied as those for a lateral peer (see Section 4.5.1) except that the last two bullets are modified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefixes learned from AS’s lateral peers • Prefixes learned from AS’s other transit providers <p>Note: In conjunction with the outbound prefix filtering security recommendation, some policy rules may also be applied if a transit provider is not contracted (or chosen) to provide transit for some subset of outbound prefixes.</p>	X	X	
<p>Security Recommendation 30: Inbound prefix filtering facing customer in Scenario 1 (see Section 4.5.3) – Only the prefixes that are known to be originated from the customer and its customer cone should be accepted, and all other route announcements should be rejected.</p>		X	
<p>Security Recommendation 31: Inbound prefix filtering facing customer in Scenario 2 (see Section 4.5.3) – The same set of inbound prefix filters should be applied as those for a lateral peer (see Section 4.5.1).</p>		X	
<p>Security Recommendation 32: Outbound prefix filtering facing customer: The filters applied in this case would vary depending on whether the customer wants to receive only the default route or the full routing table. If it is the former, then only the default route should be announced and nothing else. In the latter case, the following outbound prefix filters should be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special-purpose prefixes • Prefixes that exceed a specificity limit <p>Note: The default route filter may be added if the customer requires the full routing table but not the default route.</p>		X	
<p>Security Recommendation 33: Inbound prefix filtering for leaf customer facing transit provider – A leaf customer may request only the default route from its transit provider. In this case, only the default route should be accepted and nothing else. If the leaf customer requires the full routing table from the transit provider, then it should apply the following inbound prefix filters:</p>	X		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unallocated prefixes • Special-purpose prefixes • Prefixes that the AS (i.e., leaf customer) originates • Prefixes that exceed a specificity limit • Default route 			
<p>Security Recommendation 34: Outbound prefix filtering for leaf customer facing transit provider – A leaf customer network should apply a very simple outbound policy of announcing only the prefixes it originates. However, it may additionally apply the same outbound prefix filters as those for a lateral peer (see Section 4.5.1) to observe extra caution.</p>	X		
<p>Security Recommendation 35: The ROA data (available from RPKI registries) should be used to construct and/or augment prefix filter lists for customer interfaces.</p>		X	
<p>Checking AS Path for Disallowed AS Numbers</p>			
<p>Security Recommendation 36: The AS path in an update received in eBGP should be checked to ensure that the local AS number is not present. The AS path should also be checked to ensure that AS numbers meant for special purposes [IANA-ASN-sp] are not present. In case of a violation, the update should be rejected.</p> <p>Note: The special purpose ASN 23456 is allocated for AS_TRANS [RFC6793] and is allowed to be present in an AS_PATH in conjunction with an AS4_PATH [RFC 6793] in the update.</p>	X	X	
<p>Route Leak Mitigation:</p>			
<p>Security Recommendation 37: An AS operator should have an ingress policy to tag routes internally (locally within the AS) to communicate from ingress to egress regarding the type of peer (customer, lateral peer, or transit provider) from which the route was received.</p>	X	X	
<p>Security Recommendation 38: An AS operator should have an egress policy to utilize the tagged information (in Security Recommendation 37) to prevent route leaks when routes are forwarded on the egress. The AS should not forward routes received from a transit provider to another transit provider or a</p>	X	X	

lateral peer. Also, the AS should not forward routes received from a lateral peer to another lateral peer or a transit provider.			
GTSM			
Security Recommendation 39: The Generalized TTL Security Mechanism (GTSM) [RFC5082] should be applied on a per-peer basis to provide protection against spoofed BGP messages.	X	X	
DDoS Mitigation (Anti-spoofing):			
Security Recommendation 40: BGP routers that have directly connected customers with suballocated address space, CMTS (or equivalent) in broadband access networks, and PDN-GW (or equivalent) in mobile networks should implement SAV using ACLs (Section 5.1.1). The BGP routers in this context may alternatively use the strict uRPF method (Section 5.1.2).		X	
Security Recommendation 41: An enterprise border router that is multi-homed should always announce all of its address space to each of its upstream transit providers. This can be done in one of two ways: 1) announce an aggregate less-specific prefix to all transit providers and more-specific prefixes (covered by the less-specific prefix) to different transit providers as needed for traffic engineering, or 2) announce the same prefixes to each transit provider (albeit with suitable prepending for traffic engineering).	X		
Security Recommendation 42: This is the exception case when the enterprise border router does not adhere to Security Recommendation 41 and instead selectively announces some prefixes to one upstream transit ISP and other prefixes to another upstream transit ISP. In this case, the enterprise should route data (by appropriate internal routing) such that the source addresses in the data packets towards each upstream transit ISP belong in the prefix or prefixes announced to that ISP.	X		
Security Recommendation 43: On the ingress side (i.e., for data packets received from the transit ISP), enterprise border routers should deploy loose uRPF (Section 5.1.4) and/or ACLs (Section 5.1.1) to drop packets when the source address is spoofed (i.e., belongs to obviously disallowed prefix blocks—prefixes marked “False” in column “Global” [IANA-v4-sp] [IANA-v6-sp] and the enterprise’s own prefixes).	X		

<p>Security Recommendation 44: An enterprise (i.e., a leaf AS with or without multi-homing) should allow on the egress side (i.e., for data packets sent to the transit ISP) only those packets with source addresses that belong in their own prefixes.</p>	<p>X</p>		
<p>Security Recommendation 45: On customer-facing interfaces, smaller ISPs should perform SAV on ingress packets by deploying the feasible-path uRPF (see Section 5.1.3). They should avoid using strict or loose uRPF as they are not effective, especially in the case of multi-homed customers. It is recognized that larger ISPs may use loose uRPF on customer interfaces.</p>		<p>X</p>	
<p>Security Recommendation 46: For feasible-path uRPF to work appropriately, a smaller ISP (especially one that is near the internet edge) should propagate all of its announced address space to each of its upstream transit providers. This can be done in one of two ways: 1) announce an aggregate less-specific prefix to all transit providers and announce more-specific prefixes (covered by the less-specific prefix) to different transit providers as needed for traffic engineering, or 2) announce the same prefixes to each transit provider (albeit with suitable prepending for traffic engineering).</p>		<p>X</p>	
<p>Security Recommendation 47: ISPs should prefer customer routes over other (i.e., transit provider or lateral peer) routes. (This is also normal ISP policy in most cases.)</p> <p>Note: Following this recommendation facilitates a basis for adhering to Security Recommendation 45. It is also one of the stability conditions on BGP policy for ensuring stable convergence of routing information [Gao-Rexford].</p>		<p>X</p>	
<p>Security Recommendation 48: On interfaces with lateral (i.e., non-transit) peers, smaller ISPs (near the edge of the internet) should perform SAV on ingress packets by deploying the feasible-path uRPF (see Section 5.1.3). They should avoid using strict or loose uRPF as they are not very effective for SAV on the lateral peer interfaces. It is recognized that larger ISPs may use loose uRPF on the interfaces with lateral peers.</p>		<p>X</p>	
<p>Security Recommendation 49: On interfaces with transit providers, ISPs should perform SAV on ingress packets by deploying loose uRPF (see Section 5.1.4) and/or ACLs (see Section 5.1.1) to drop packets when the source address is spoofed (i.e., belongs to obviously disallowed prefix blocks—prefixes marked “False” in column “Global” [IANA-v4-sp] [IANA-v6-sp]</p>		<p>X</p>	

and the ISP’s internal-use only prefixes).			
Security Recommendation 50: On the egress side towards customers, lateral (i.e., non-transit) peers, and transit providers, the ISP’s border routers should deploy ACLs (see Section 5.1.1) to drop packets when the source address is spoofed (i.e., belongs to obviously disallowed prefix blocks—prefixes marked “False” in column “Global” [IANA-v4-sp] [IANA-v6-sp] and the ISP’s internal-use only prefixes).		X	
Security Recommendation 51: Smaller ISPs should use the ROA data (available from RPKI registries) to construct and/or augment ACLs/RPF lists for SAV for ingress packets on customer interfaces.		X	
Traffic Filtering (Monitoring UDP/TCP Ports with Vulnerable Applications):			
Security Recommendation 52: In BGP routers, allow peers to connect to only port 179. The standard port for receiving BGP session OPEN messages is port 179, so attempts by BGP peers to reach other ports are likely to indicate faulty configuration or potential malicious activity.	X	X	
Security Recommendation 53: Disable applications or services that are unwanted in the network or system under consideration.			X
Security Recommendation 54: Deny traffic for any TCP/UDP ports for which the network or system under consideration does not support the corresponding applications. In some cases, an application or service is supported on some interfaces (e.g., customer or internal-facing interfaces) but not others (e.g., internet-facing interfaces). In such cases, the traffic with a port ID specific to the application under consideration should be denied on interfaces on which the application is not supported.			X
Security Recommendation 55: This recommendation is aimed at the detection of traffic overload and mitigating actions. The relevant mitigation techniques are response rate limiting (RRL) [ISC1] [Redbarn] and source-based remotely triggered black hole (S/RTBH) filtering enabled with Flowspec [RFC5575] (see Section 5.5). These techniques are applicable to open services/protocols such as those listed in Table 1, which are themselves vulnerable to DoS/DDoS attacks or may be exploited			X

<p>for reflection/amplification. The recommendation consists of multiple steps as follows [TA14-017A]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the rate of queries/requests per source address and detect if an abnormally high volume of responses is headed to the same destination (i.e., same IP address). • Apply the response rate limiting (RRL) technique to mitigate the attack. • Using BGP messaging (Flowspec), create a remotely triggered black hole (RTBH) filter. This can be coordinated with the upstream ISP. • Maintain emergency contact information for the upstream provider to coordinate a response to the attack. • An upstream ISP should actively coordinate responses with downstream customers. 			
<p>Security Recommendation 56: Deny NTP monlist request traffic (by disabling the monlist command) altogether, or enforce that the requests come from valid (permitted) source addresses.</p>			X
<p>Security Recommendation 57: To limit exploitation, an enterprise internal DNS recursive resolver should limit the scope of clients from which it accepts requests. The clients normally come from within the same enterprise network where the DNS resolver resides. Hence, the DNS recursive resolver can maintain access lists in the configuration so that it is not open to the entire internet [ISOC] [TA14-017A].</p>			X
<p>Security Recommendation 58: An enterprise should block UDP/Port 53 and TCP/Port 53 for ingress and egress at the network boundary; exceptions to this include designated enterprise recursive resolvers that need to send queries and designated enterprise authoritative servers that must listen for queries. (See explanation in Section 5.4.)</p>			X
<p>Security Recommendation 59: An ISP should perform rate limiting of UDP fragment traffic at edge routers facing customers and lateral peers.</p>		X	
<p>DDoS Mitigation (Remote Triggered Black Hole filtering, Flow specification):</p>			
<p>Security Recommendation 60: Edge routers should be equipped to perform destination-based remotely triggered black hole (D/RTBH) filtering and source-based remotely triggered</p>	X	X	

black hole (S/RTBH) filtering.			
Security Recommendation 61: Edge routers should be equipped to make use of BGP flow specification (Flowspec) to facilitate DoS/DDoS mitigation (in coordination between upstream and downstream autonomous systems).	X	X	
Security Recommendation 62: Edge routers in an AS providing RTBH filtering should have an ingress policy towards RTBH customers to accept routes more specific than /24 in IPv4 and /48 in IPv6. Additionally, the edge routers should accept a more specific route (in case of D/RTBH) only if it is subsumed by a less-specific route that the customer is authorized to announce as standard policy (i.e., the less-specific route has a registered IRR entry and/or an ROA). Further, the edge routers should not drop RTBH-related more-specific route advertisements from customers even though BGP origin validation may mark them as “Invalid.”		X	
Security Recommendation 63: A customer AS should make sure that the routes announced for RTBH filtering have NO_EXPORT, NO_ADVERTISE, or similar communities.	X	X	
Security Recommendation 64: An ISP providing an RTBH filtering service to customers must have an egress policy that denies routes that have community tagging meant for triggering RTBH filtering. This is an additional safeguard in case NO_EXPORT, NO_ADVERTISE, or similar tagging fails.		X	
Security Recommendation 65: An ISP providing an RTBH filtering service to customers must have an egress policy that denies prefixes that are longer than expected. This provides added safety in case NO_EXPORT, NO_ADVERTISE, or similar tagging fails.		X	

1423

1424 **Appendix B— Acronyms**

1425 Selected acronyms and abbreviations used in this paper are defined below.

ACL	Access Control List
AfriNIC	African Network Information Center
APNIC	Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre
ARIN	American Registry for Internet Numbers
AS	Autonomous System
BGP	Broder Gateway Protocol
BGP-OV	BGP Origin Validation
BGP-PV	BGP Path Validation
BGPsec	Broder Gateway Protocol with Security Extensions
DA	Destination Address
DSCP	Differentiated Services Code Point
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DoS	Denial of Service
DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service
DNS	Domain Name System
DNSSEC	Domain Name System Security Extensions
eBGP	External BGP
EFP-uRPF	Enhanced Feasible Path Unicast Reverse Path Forwarding
FIB	Forwarding Information Base
FISMA	Federal Information Security Modernization Act
Flowspec	Flow Specification
FP-uRPF	Feasible Path Unicast Reverse Path Forwarding
GTSM	Generalized TTL Security Mechanism

IANA	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
iBGP	Internal BGP
ICMP	Internet Control Message Protocol
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
IGP	Internal Gateway Protocol
IRR	Internet Routing Registry
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IXP	Internet Exchange Point
LACNIC	Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre
maxlength	Maximum allowed length of a prefix specified in RAO
NCCoE	National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence
NIST SP	NIST Special Publication
NLRI	Network Layer Routing Information (synonymous with prefix)
NTP	Network Time Protocol
RFC	Request for Comments (IETF standards document)
RFD	Route Flap Damping
RIB	Routing Information Base
RIPE	Réseaux IP Européens
RIR	Regional Internet Registry
RITE	Resilient Interdomain Traffic Exchange
ROA	Route Origin Authorization
RPKI	Resource Public Key Infrastructure
RPKI-to-router protocol	RPKI cache to router protocol
RLP	Route Leak Protection

RRDP	RPKI Repository Delta Protocol
RTBH	Remotely Triggered Black-Holing
D/RTBH	Destination-based Remotely Triggered Black-Holing
S/RTBH	Source-based Remotely Triggered Black-Holing
SA	Source Address
SAV	Source Address Validation
SIDR	Secure Inter-Domain Routing
SIDR WG	Secure Inter-Domain Routing Working Group (in the IETF)
SSDP	Simple Service Discovery Protocol
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
TLS	Transport Layer Security
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
UPnP	Universal Plug and Play
uRPF	Unicast Reverse Path Forwarding