Non optimal routing caused by incompatibility of 32-bit ASN with the old router software. KAZRENA CASE STUDY

BGP - Exterior Routing Protocol



Autonomous System

What is an Autonomous System (AS)?

- A set of routers under a single technical administration, using an interior gateway protocol (IGP) and common metrics to route packets within the AS and using an exterior gateway protocol (EGP) to route packets to other AS's
- Sometimes AS's use multiple IGPs and metrics, but appear as single AS's to other AS's
- Each AS assigned unique ID
- AS's peer at network exchanges

AS Numbers (ASN)

- ASN is unique identifier of autonomous systems
- Initially, ASN was 16-bit binary number
- Maximum number of ASN 65535
- Now we are running out of 16-bit ASN
- In 2007 IETF adopted new 32-bit format of ASN (RFC4893)

BGP asymmetric routing in KazRENA



Routing software supporting of 32-bit Asn

Cisco IOS 12.4(24)T, 12.0(32)S12 and above Cisco IOS XR 3.4(1) and above Juniper JUNOS 9.1R1 and above Juniper JUNOSe 4.1.0 and above Quagga 0.99.10 and above Redback SEOS 2.0 and above

BGP as_path issue with new format ASN

- Router with outdated software without support of new format ASN replaces 32-bit ASN with special 16-bit placeholder ASN – 23456.
- That causes problems with BGP AS_PATH attribute:
- If there are several 32-bit ASes in AS_PATH all of them replaced by the same placeholder 16-bit ASN.
- As analysis shows some ISPs use routing policies which gives very low priority for AS_PATH with ASN 23456.



Thank for attention!