

# Introduction to IS-IS



## ISP Workshops

# IS-IS

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- Intermediate **S**ystem to **I**ntermediate **S**ystem
- ISO 10589 specifies OSI IS-IS routing protocol for CLNS traffic
  - A Link State protocol with a 2 level hierarchical architecture
  - Type/Length/Value (TLV) options to enhance the protocol
- RFC 1195 added IP support
  - Integrated IS-IS
  - I/IS-IS runs on top of the Data Link Layer

# IS-IS

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- Known as a Link State Routing Protocol
  - The other link state routing protocol is OSPF
  - Each node in the network computes the map of connectivity through the network
- The other type of Routing Protocol is Distance Vector
  - Like EIGRP or RIP
  - Each node shares its view of the routing table with other nodes

# IS-IS

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- Routers with IS-IS enabled on them look for neighbouring routers also running IS-IS
  - Hello Protocol Data Units (PDUs) are exchanged
  - The “Hello” packet includes the list of known neighbours, and details such as “hello interval” and “router dead interval”
    - Hello interval – how often the router will send Hellos
    - Router dead interval – how long to wait before deciding router has disappeared
    - The values of “hello interval” and “router dead interval” **must** match on both neighbours
  - When a neighbouring router responds with matching details, a **neighbour relationship** is formed

# IS-IS Neighbour Relationships

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- A relationship is formed between neighbouring routers for the purpose of exchanging routing information
  - This is called an **ADJACENCY**

# IS-IS Adjacencies

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- Once an adjacency is formed, neighbours share their link state information
  - Information goes in a **Link State PDU** (LSP)
  - LSPs are flooded to all neighbours
- New information received from neighbours is used to compute a new view of the network
- On a link failure
  - New LSPs are flooded
  - The routers recompute the routing table

# IS-IS across a network

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- ❑ All routers across the network form neighbour relationships with their directly attached neighbours
- ❑ Each router computes the routing table
- ❑ Once each router has the same view of the network, the network has **converged**
- ❑ The IGP design for a network is crucially important to ensure **scalability** and **rapid convergence**
- ❑ Generally: **the fewer the prefixes, the faster the convergence**

# IS-IS Levels

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- IS-IS has a 2 layer hierarchy
  - Level-2 (the backbone)
  - Level-1 (the edge)
- A router can be
  - Level-1 (L1) router
  - Level-2 (L2) router
  - Level-1-2 (L1L2) router
- Most small to medium networks (up to ~400 routers) can happily exist in Level-2



# IS-IS

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- IS-IS is multiprotocol
  - Integrated IS-IS carries CLNS and IPv4 address families
  - RFC5308 adds IPv6 address family support
  - RFC5120 adds multi-topology support
- IS-IS extended to carry IPv6 prefixes
  - Either sharing topology with IPv4
    - When IPv4 and IPv6 topologies are identical
  - Or using “multi-topology”, independent of IPv4
    - Allows incremental rollout of IPv6

# Links in IS-IS

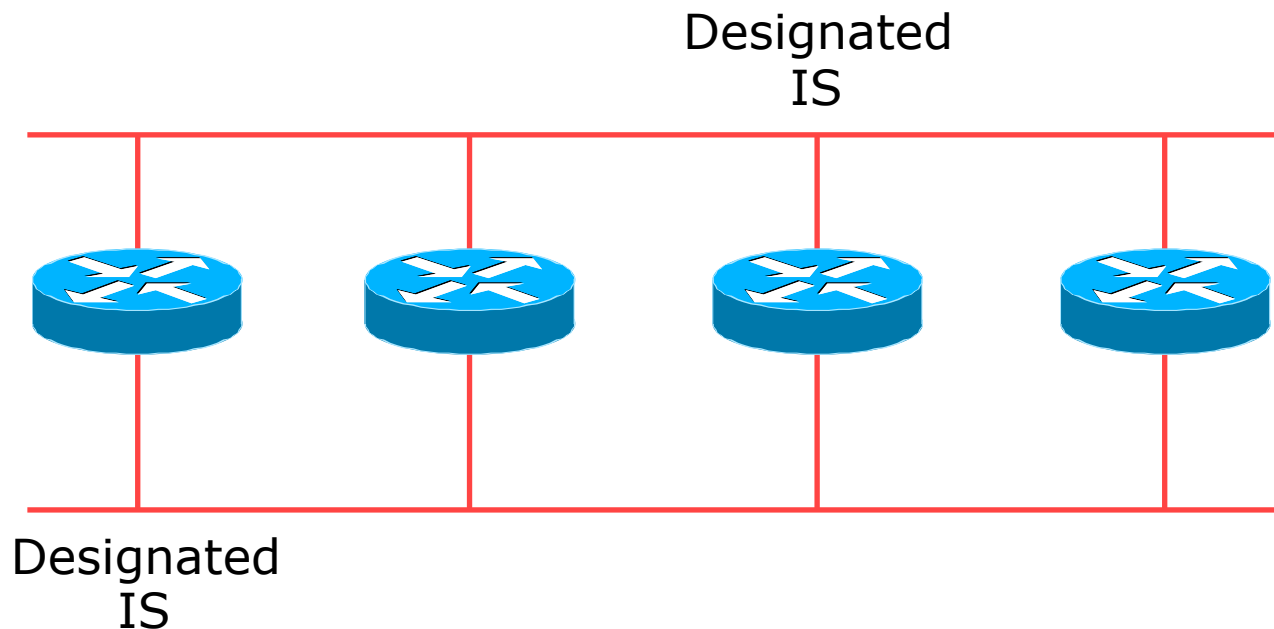
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- Two types of links in IS-IS:
  - Point-to-point link
    - Only one other router on the link, forming a point-to-point adjacency
  - Multi-access network (e.g. ethernet)
    - Potential for many other routers on the network, with several other adjacencies
- IS-IS in multi-access networks has optimisations to aid scaling
  - One router is elected to originate the LSPs for the whole multi-access network
  - Called “**Designated Information System**”
  - Other routers on the multi-access network form adjacencies with the DIS

# Designated IS

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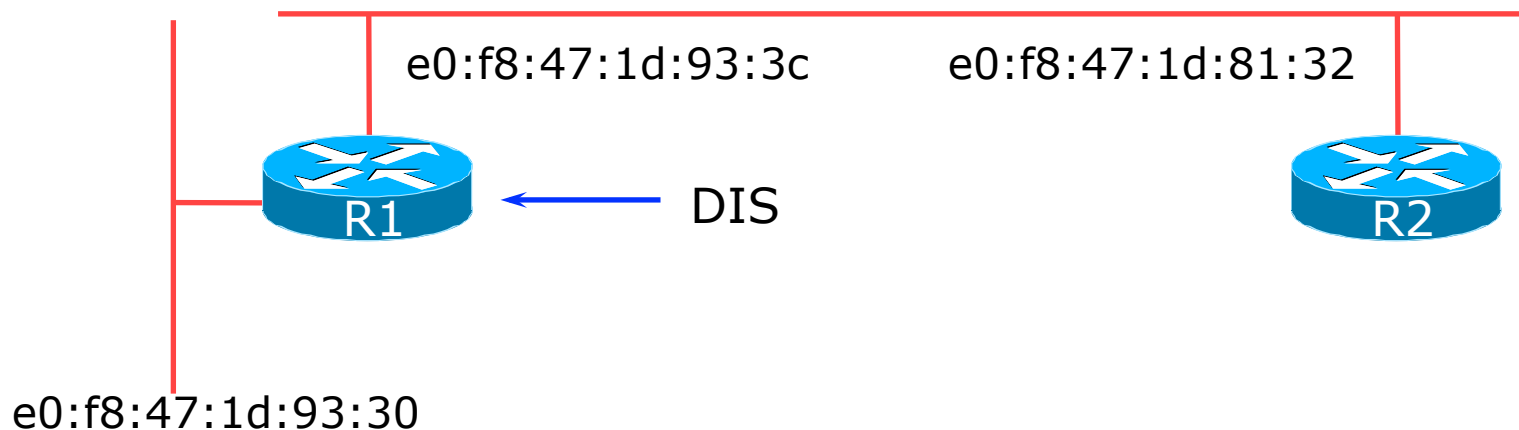
- There is ONE designated router per multi-access network
  - Generates network link advertisements
  - Assists in database synchronization
  - Scales IS-IS for multi-access (ethernet) networks



# Selecting the Designated Router

- ❑ Configured priority (per interface)
  - Configure high priority on the router to be the DIS

```
interface gigabitethernet0/1
isis priority 127 level-2
```
- ❑ Else priority determined by highest MAC address
  - Best practice is to set two routers to be highest priority – then in case of failure of the DIS there is deterministic fall back to the other



# Adjacencies: Examples

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- To find CLNS adjacency state, use:

```
show clns neighbor
```

System Id	Interface	SNPA	State	Holdtime	Type	Protocol
Router2	Fa0/0	ca01.9798.0008	Up	23	L2	M-ISIS
Router3	Se1/0	*HDLC*	Up	26	L2	M-ISIS

- To find IS-IS adjacency state, use:

```
show isis neighbor
```

System Id	Type	Interface	IP Address	State	Holdtime	Circuit Id
Router2	L2	Fa0/0	10.10.15.2	UP	24	Router2.01
Router3	L2	Se1/0	10.10.15.6	UP	27	00

# IS-IS on Cisco IOS

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- ❑ Starting IS-IS in Cisco's IOS

```
router isis as42
```

- Where "as42" is the process ID

- ❑ IS-IS process ID is unique to the router

- Gives possibility of running multiple instances of IS-IS on one router
- Process ID is not passed between routers in an AS
- Some ISPs configure the process ID to be the same as their BGP Autonomous System Number

# IS-IS NSAP Address

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- ❑ IP based routing protocols have the router-id to uniquely identify a router
- ❑ IS-IS uses the NSAP address
  - Can be from 64 to 160 bits long
- ❑ ISPs typically choose NSAP addresses thus:
  - First 8 bits – pick a number (usually 49)
  - Next 16 bits – area
  - Next 48 bits – router loopback address
  - Final 8 bits – zero
- ❑ Example:
  - NSAP: 49.0001.1921.6800.1001.00
  - Router: 192.168.1.1 (loopback) in Area 1

# IS-IS in Cisco IOS

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- ❑ Cisco IOS default is for all routers to be L1L2
  - This is suboptimal – all routers need to be L2 only
- ❑ Once IS-IS is started, other required configuration under the IS-IS process includes:
  - Capture adjacency changes in the system log  
`log-adjacency-changes`
  - Set metric-style to wide  
`metric-style wide`
  - Set IS type to level 2 only (router-wide configuration)  
`is-type level-2-only`
  - Set NET address  
`net 49.0001.<loopback>.00`



# Adding interfaces to IS-IS

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- ❑ To activate IS-IS on an interface:

```
interface POS4/0
  ip router isis as42
```

- Puts interface subnet address into the LSDB
- Enables CLNS on that interface

- ❑ To disable IS-IS on an interface:

```
router isis as42
  passive-interface GigabitEthernet 0/0
```

- Disables CLNS on that interface
- Puts the interface subnet address into the LSDB

- ❑ No IS-IS configuration for an interface

- No CLNS run on interface, no interface subnet in the LSDB

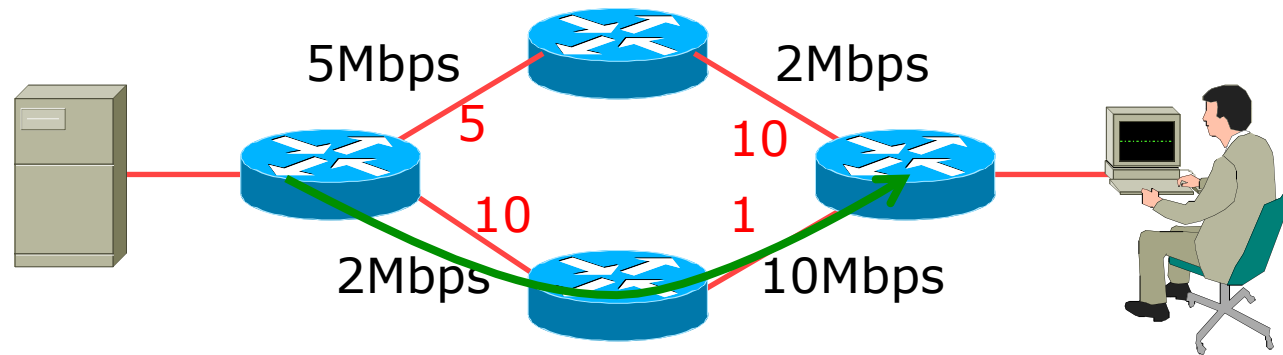
# IS-IS interface costs

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- ❑ All interfaces have a default metric of 10
  - Fine for a uniform network, but most backbones have different link capacities between routers & PoPs
- ❑ Many operators develop their own interface metric strategy
  - ```
isis metric 100 level-2
```
  - Sets interface metric to 100
  - Care needed as the sum of metrics determines the best path through the network
- ❑ **ISIS chooses lowest cost path through a network**
- ❑ **IS-IS will load balance over paths with equal total cost to the same destination**

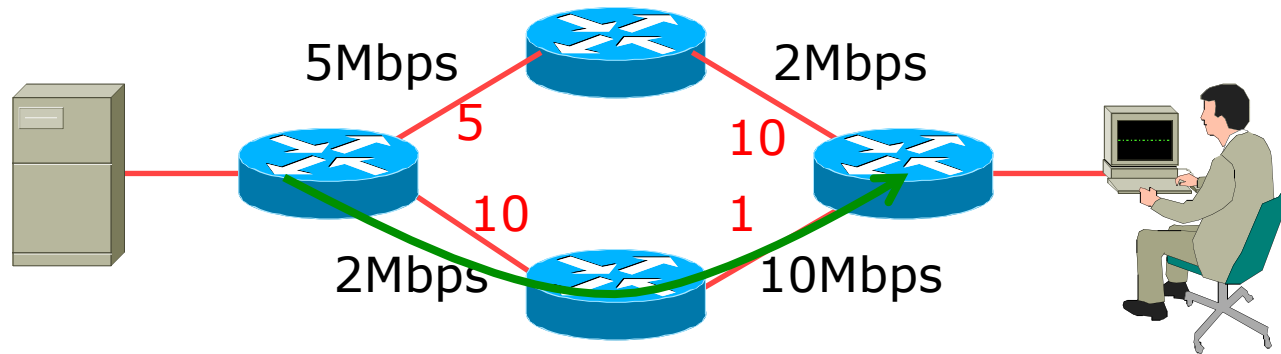
# IS-IS Metric Calculation

- Best path/lowest cost = 11

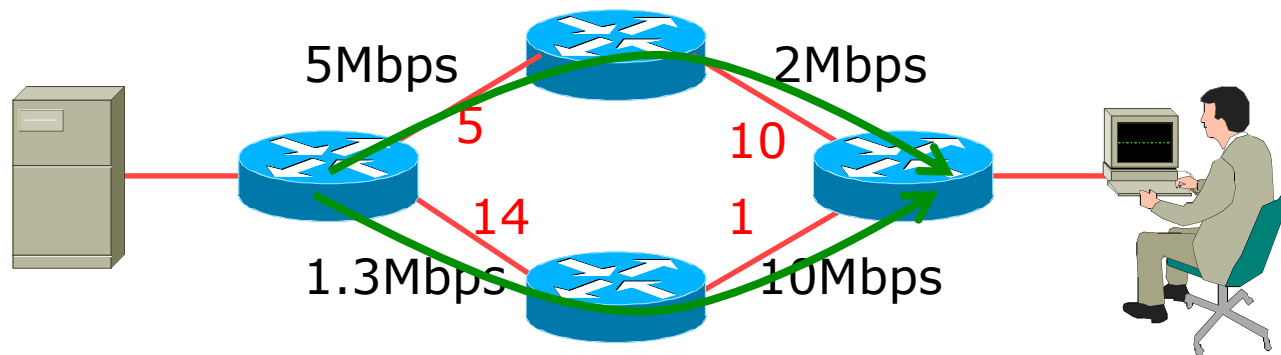


# IS-IS Metric Calculation

- Best path/lowest cost = 11



- Equal cost paths = 15



# IS-IS Neighbour Authentication

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- ❑ Neighbour authentication is highly recommended
  - Prevents unauthorised routers from forming neighbour relationships and potentially compromising the network
- ❑ Create a suitable key-chain

```
key chain isis-as42
  key 1
    key-string <password>
!
```

- There can be up to 255 different keys in each key chain

# IS-IS Neighbour Authentication

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- Apply key-chain per interface:

```
interface POS 4/0
  isis authentication mode md5 level-2
  isis authentication key-chain isis-as42 level-2
!
```

- Apply key-chain to ISIS process (all interfaces):

```
router isis as42
  authentication mode md5 level-2
  authentication key-chain isis-as42 level-2
!
```

# Other IS-IS Features

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## ❑ Originating a default route into IS-IS:

```
router isis as42
  default-information originate
```

- Which will originate a default route into the IS-IS LSDB if a default route exists in the RIB

## ❑ IS-IS on point-to-point ethernet:

- DIS election is not needed on a point to point link – so it is disabled, which is more efficient

```
interface fastethernet0/2
  isis network point-to-point
```

# Handling IPv6 in IS-IS

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- To add IPv6 support in IS-IS:

```
interface POS4/0
  ipv6 router isis as42
```

- Topologies:

- For single topology, nothing else is required
- For multi-topology, include:

```
router isis as42
  address-family ipv6
  multi-topology
```



# Conclusion

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- IS-IS is a Link State Routing Protocol
- Quick and simple to get started
  - But has a myriad of options and features to cover almost all types of network topology
  - ISPs keep their IS-IS design **SIMPLE**
  - ~400 routers in a single area is entirely feasible

# Introduction to IS-IS



ISP Workshops