

TNT: Technical Report

Yves Vanaubel*, Jean-Romain Luttringer[‡], Pascal Mérindol[‡], Jean-Jacques Pansiot[‡], Benoit Donnet*

* Montefiore Institute, Université de Liège – Belgium

[‡] Icube, Université de Strasbourg – France

Abstract—Internet topology discovery has been a recurrent research topic for nearly 20 years now. Basically, it works by sending hop-limited probes (i.e., `traceroute`) towards a set of destinations and by using collected data to build the Internet topology. However, `traceroute` comes with multiple limits, in particular with MPLS clouds that might hide their content to `traceroute` exploration, leading to incomplete and inaccurate Internet topology data and models.

In this paper, we introduce **TNT** (**T**race the **N**aughty **T**unnels), an extension to Paris `traceroute` for revealing most (if not all) hidden MPLS tunnels along a path. **TNT** works in two steps: (i) along with `traceroute` probes, it identifies evidence of a potential tunnel presence and, (ii), launches additional dedicated probing to reveal the content of the tunnel, if required. We validate **TNT** through GNS3 emulation and tune its parameters through dedicated measurement campaign. We also largely deploy **TNT** on the Archipelago platform and provide a quantification of tunnels, updating so state of the art vision of MPLS tunnels. Finally, **TNT** is fully available, as well as data collected and scripts used for processing data.

I. INTRODUCTION

For now twenty years, the Internet topology discovery has attracted a lot of attention from the research community [?], [?]. First, numerous tools have been proposed to better capture the Internet at the IP interface level (mainly based on `traceroute`) and the router level (by aggregating IP interfaces of a router through *alias resolution*). Second, the data collected has been used to model the Internet [?], but also to have a better knowledge of the network ecosystem and how it is organized by operators.

However, despite the work done so far, a lot of issues still need to be fixed, specially in data collection processes based on `traceroute`. For instance, collecting data about Layer-2 devices connecting routers is still an open question, although it has been addressed previously with a, nowadays, deprecated tool (i.e., IGMP-based probing) [?]. Another example is the relationship between traditional network hardware and the so-called middleboxes [?], [?]. Finally, MPLS tunnels [?] also have an impact on topology discovery as they allow to hide internal hops [?], [?].

This report focuses on the interaction between `traceroute` and MPLS. In a nutshell, MPLS has been designed to reduce the time required to make forwarding decisions thanks to the insertion of *labels* (called *Label Stack Entries*, or LSE) before the IP header¹. Indeed, in an MPLS network, packets are forwarded using an exact match lookup of a 20-bit value found in the LSE. At each

MPLS hop, the label of the incoming packet is replaced by a corresponding outgoing label found in an MPLS switching table. The MPLS forwarding engine is lighter than the IP forwarding engine because finding an exact match for a label is simpler than finding the longest matching prefix for an IP address. Some MPLS tunnels may be revealed to `traceroute` because MPLS routers are able to generate ICMP *time-exceeded* message when the MPLS TTL expires and the ICMP message embeds the LSE, revealing so the presence of the tunnel [?], [?]. However the MPLS architecture supports optional mechanisms that, in effect, make MPLS tunnels invisible to `traceroute` by modifying the way the packets TTL is processed. A first attempt has been made on revealing so-called invisible [?] tunnels but this is far from being complete.

This report aims at plugging the gaps in identifying and revealing the content of MPLS tunnels. This is done by introducing **TNT** (**T**race the **N**aughty **T**unnels), an open-source extension for Paris `traceroute` [?] including techniques for inferring and revealing MPLS tunnels content. More precisely, this report provides four contributions:

- 1) we complement the state of the art with `traceroute`-based **measurement techniques** able to reveal most (if not all) MPLS tunnels, even those that were built for hiding their content. Those techniques work with *indicators* or *triggers* that are used to determine the potential presence of a tunnel. When a trigger is pulled during a `traceroute` exploration, an *MPLS revelation* is launched with the objective of revealing the tunnel content. We validate the indicators, triggers, and revelations using GNS-3, an emulator running the actual IOS of real routers in a virtualized environment.² We also demonstrate, through measurements, that those techniques are efficient in terms of cost (i.e., the additional amount of probes injected is reasonable, specially compared to the quality of new data discovered) and errors (false positives and false negatives);
- 2) we **implement** those techniques within Scamper [?] as a Paris `traceroute` extension, called **TNT**, and deploy it on the Archipelago infrastructure [?]. **TNT** aims at replacing the old version of Scamper and is, thus, subject to run every day towards millions of destinations. As such, we believe **TNT** will be useful to study MPLS deployment and usage over time, increasing so our knowledge and culture on this technology;

¹Although MPLS can also be used with IPv6 [?], in this paper we consider only IPv4

²See <https://gns3.com/> Note that it is also possible to emulate other router brand, e.g., Juniper, with GNS-3.

Router Signature	Router Brand and OS
< 255, 255 >	Cisco (IOS, IOS XR)
< 255, 64 >	Juniper (Junos)
< 128, 128 >	Juniper (JunosE)
< 64, 64 >	Brocade, Alcatel, Linux

TABLE I: Summary of main router signature, the first initial TTL of the pair corresponds to ICMP `time-exceeded`, while the second is for ICMP `echo-reply`.

- 3) we **analyze** the data collected and report a new quantification on MPLS deployment in the wild, updating so previous results [?];
- 4) we work in a **reproducibility** perspective. As such, all our code (TNT, GNS-3, data processing and analysis) as well as our collected dataset is made available.³

The remainder of this report is organized as follows: Sec. ?? provides the required technical background for this report; Sec. ?? introduces TNT, our extension to `traceroute` for revealing the content of all MPLS tunnels; Sec. ?? validates TNT through multiple GNS3 emulations; Sec. ?? calibrates TNT parameters, while Sec. ?? provides results of TNT deployment over the Archipelago architecture; Sec. ?? position TNT with respect to the state of the art; finally, Sec. ?? concludes this report by summarizing its main achievements.

II. BACKGROUND

This section discusses the technical background required for the paper. Sec. ?? explains how hardware brand can be inferred from collected TTLs. Sec. ?? to Sec. ?? are dedicated to MPLS. In particular, Sec. ?? provides the basics of MPLS labels and introduces the MPLS control plane. Sec. ?? focuses on the MPLS data plane and MPLS TTL processing. Finally, Sec. ?? explains the relationships between MPLS tunnels and `traceroute` in light of Sec. ?? and ??.

A. Network Fingerprinting

Vanaubel et al. [?] have presented a router fingerprinting technique that classifies networking devices based on their hardware and operating system (OS). This method infers initial TTL values used by a router when forging different kinds of packets. It then builds the router *signature*, i.e., the n -tuple of n initial TTLs. A basic pair-signature (with $n = 2$) simply uses the initial TTL of two different messages: an ICMP `time-exceeded` message elicited by a `traceroute` probe, and an ICMP `echo-reply` message obtained from an `echo-request` probe. Table ?? summarizes the main router signatures, with associated router brands and router OSes. This feature is really interesting since the two most deployed router brands, Cisco and Juniper, have distinct MPLS behaviors and signatures.

B. MPLS Basics and Control Plane

MPLS routers, i.e., *Label Switching Routers* (LSRs), exchange labelled packets over *Label Switched Paths* (LSPs). In



Fig. 1: The MPLS label stack entry (LSE) format.

practice, those packets are tagged with one or more *label stack entries* (LSE) inserted between the frame header (data-link layer) and the IP packet (network layer). Each LSE is made of four fields as illustrated by Fig. ??: an MPLS label used for forwarding the packet to the next router, a Traffic Class field for quality of service, priority, and Explicit Congestion Notification [?], a bottom of stack flag bit (to indicate whether the current LSE is the last in the stack [?])⁴, and a time-to-live (LSE-TTL) field having the same purpose as the IP-TTL field [?] (i.e., avoiding routing loops).

Labels may be allocated through the *Label Distribution Protocol* (LDP) [?]. Each LSR announces to its neighbors the association between a prefix in its routing table and a label it has chosen for a given Forwarding Equivalent Class (a FEC is a destination prefix by default), populating so a *Label Forwarding Information Table* (LFIB) in each LSR. With LDP, a router advertises the same label to all its neighbors for a given FEC. LDP is mainly used for scalability reasons (e.g., to limit BGP-IGP interactions to edge routers) and to avoid anomalies for the transit traffic such as iBGP deflection issues. Indeed, LDP deployed tunnels use the same routes computed by the IGP (without any interest at the first, and naive, glance) as the LFIB is built on top of the IGP FIB. Labels can also be distributed through RSVP-TE [?], when MPLS is used for Traffic Engineering (TE) purposes. In practice, most operators deploying RSVP-TE tunnels use LDP [?] as a default labeling protocol.

With LDP, MPLS has two ways of binding labels to destination prefixes: (i) through ordered LSP control (default configuration of Juniper routers [?]), or, (ii), through independent LSP control (default configuration of Cisco routers [?, Chap. 4]). In the former mode, a LSR only binds a label to a prefix

if this prefix is local (typically, the exit point of the LSR), or if it has received a label binding proposal from the IGP next hop towards this prefix. This mode is thus iterative as each intermediate upstream LSR waits for a proposal of its downstream LSR (to build the LSP from the exit to the entry point). Juniper routers use this mode as default and only propose labels for loopback IP addresses. In the second mode, that is the Cisco default one, a LSR creates a label binding for each prefix it has in its RIB (connected or – redistributed in – IGP routes only) and distributes it to all its neighbors. This mode does not require any proposal from downstream LSR. Consequently, a label proposal is sent to all neighbors without ensuring that the LSP is enabled up to the exit point of the tunnel. LSP setup takes less time but may lead to uncommon situation in which an LSP can end abruptly before reaching the exit point (see Sec. ?? for details.)

The last LSR towards a FEC is the *Egress Label Edge*

³See <http://www.montefiore.ulg.ac.be/~bdonnet/mpls>

⁴To simplify the presentation we will consider only one LSE in the remainder of this paper

Router (the Egress LER). Depending on its configuration, two labeling modes may be performed. The default mode [?] is *Penultimate Hop Popping* (PHP), where the Egress advertises an implicit null label (label value of 3 [?]). The previous LSR (*Penultimate Hop LSR* (PH, P_3 in Fig. ??) is in charge of removing the LSE to reduce the load on the Egress. In the *Ultimate Hop Popping* (UHP), the Egress LER advertises an explicit null label (label value of 0 [?]). The PH will use this explicit null label and the Egress LER will be responsible for its removal. Labels assigned by LSRs other than the Egress LER are distinct from implicit or explicit null labels. The *Ending Hop LSR* (EH) is the LSR in charge of removing the label, it can be the PH in case of PHP, the Egress LER in case of UHP or possibly another LSR in the case of independent LSP control.

C. MPLS Data Plane and TTL processing

Depending on its location along the LSP, a LSR applies one of the three following operations:

- **PUSH** (Sec. ??). The first MPLS router, i.e., the tunnel entry point pushes one or several LSEs in the IP packet that turns into an MPLS one. The *Ingress Label Edge Router* (Ingress LER) associates the FEC of the packet to its LSP.
- **SWAP** (Sec. ??). Within the LSP, each LSR makes a label lookup in the LFIB, swaps the incoming label with its corresponding outgoing label and sends the MPLS packet further along the LSP.
- **POP** (Sec. ??). The EH, the last LSR of the LSP, deletes the LSE, and converts the MPLS packet back into an IP one. The EH can be the *Egress Label Edge Router* (the Egress LER) when UHP is enabled or the LH otherwise.

Fig. ?? illustrates the main vocabulary associated to MPLS tunnels.

1) *LSP Entry Behavior*: When an IP packet enters an MPLS cloud, the Ingress LER binds a label to the packet thanks to a lookup into its LFIB, depending on the packet FEC, e.g., its IP destination prefix. Prior to pushing the LSE into the packet, the Ingress LER has to initialize the LSE-TTL (see Fig. ??). Two behaviors can be configured: either the Ingress LER resets the LSE-TTL to an arbitrary value (255, *no-ttl-propagate*) or it copies the current IP-TTL value into the LSE-TTL (*ttl-propagate*, the default behavior). Operators can configure this operation using the *no-ttl-propagate* option provided by the router manufacturer [?]. In the former case, the LSP is called a *pipe LSP*, while, in the latter case, a *uniform* one.

Once the LSE-TTL has been initialized, the LSE is pushed on the packet and then sent to an outgoing interface of the Ingress LER. In most cases, except for a given Juniper OS (i.e., Olive), the IP-TTL is decremented before being encapsulated into the MPLS header.

2) *LSP Internal Behavior*: Upon an MPLS packet arrival, an LSR decrements its LSE-TTL. If it does not expire, the LSR looks up the label in its LFIB. It then swaps the top LSE with the one provided by the LFIB. The operation is actually a swap only if the outgoing label returned by the LFIB is neither

implicit null nor empty (so the label is greater or equal than 0 including explicit null). Otherwise, it is a pop as described in the next subsection. Finally, the packet is sent to the outgoing interface of the LSR with a new label, both according to the LFIB.

If the LSE-TTL expires, the LSR, in the fashion of any IP router, forges an ICMP *time-exceeded* that is sent back to the packet originator. It is worth to notice that a LSR may implement RFC 4950 [?] (as it should be the case in all recent OSes). If so, it means that the LSR will quote the full MPLS LSE stack of the expired packet in the ICMP *time-exceeded* message.

ICMP processing in MPLS tunnels varies according to the ICMP type of message. ICMP *Information messages* (e.g., *echo-reply*) are directly sent to the destination (e.g., originator of the *echo-request*) if the IP FIB allows for it (otherwise no replies are generated). On the contrary, ICMP *Error messages* (e.g., *time-exceeded*) are generally forwarded to the Egress LER that will be in charge to forward the packet through its IP plane [?]. Differences between Juniper and Cisco OS and configurations are discussed in detail in Sec. ??.

3) *LSP Exit Behavior*: At the MPLS packet arrival, the EH again decrements the LSE-TTL. If this TTL does not expire, the EH then pops the LSE stack after having determined the new IP-TTL.

Applying PHP comes with the advantage of reducing the load on the Egress LER, especially if it is the root of a large LSP-tree. This means that, when using PHP, the last MPLS operation (i.e., POP) is performed one hop before the Egress LER, on the EH. On the contrary, UHP is generally used only when the ISP implements more sophisticated traffic engineering operations or wants to make the tunnel content and semantics more transparent to the customers.⁵

When leaving a tunnel, the router has to decide which TTL value (IP-TTL or LSE-TTL) to copy in the IP header. On one hand, if the Ingress LER has activated the *no-ttl-propagate* option, the EH should pick the IP-TTL of the incoming packet. On the other hand, the LSE-TTL should be selected when the *ttl-propagate* option has been activated. In order to synchronize both ends of the tunnel without any message exchange, two mechanisms might be used for selecting the IP-TTL at the EH: (i) applying a $\text{MIN}(\text{IP-TTL}, \text{LSE-TTL})$ operation (solution implemented for Cisco PHP configurations [?]) or, (ii), assuming the Ingress configuration (*ttl-propagate* or not) is the same as the local configuration (solution implemented by some JunOS and also in some Cisco UHP configuration). Applying the $\text{MIN}(\text{IP-TTL}, \text{LSE-TTL})$ is the best option because it correctly supports heterogeneous *ttl-propagate* configurations in any case while, at the same time, mitigating forwarding loop without exchanging signalization messages.

This *min* behavior might be used for detecting the presence of hidden MPLS tunnels [?]. Indeed, it is likely that the EH generating the ICMP *time-exceeded* message will use the

⁵The UHP feature does not seem to be available on Juniper routers when LSPs are set with LDP. Consequently, we consider PHP as the rule on Juniper.

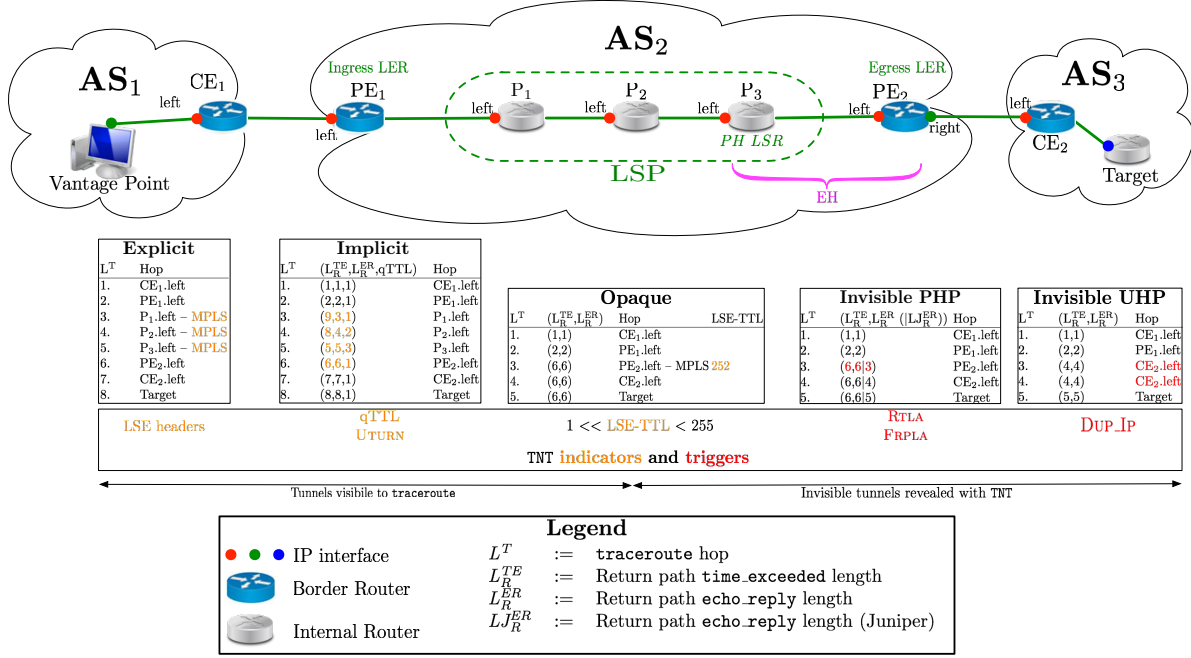


Fig. 2: Illustration of MPLS vocabulary and relationship between MPLS and `traceroute`. The figure is made of three parts. The upper part represents the network topology we use, throughout the paper to illustrate concepts. In particular, with respect to MPLS, P_1 is the LSP First Hop (FH), while P_3 is the Penultimate Hop (PH). In case of PHP, P_3 is the Ending Hop and is responsible for removing the LSE. In case of UHP, the LSE is removed by the Egress LER (PE_2). The middle part of the figure presents the MPLS Tunnel classification, as observed with `traceroute` (this classification is an update of Donnet et al. [?]). Finally, the bottom part of the figure provides triggers and indicators of an MPLS tunnel presence when probing with TNT. The relationship between the trigger/indicator and the observation made with probing is provided in red. Additional information (such as `time-exceeded` path length) are provided. This is used in Sec. ?? for illustrating TNT.

same MPLS cloud back to reply to the vantage point. In that case, when the reply will leave the MPLS cloud, the returning EH (P_1 in Fig. ??) will choose to copy the LSE-TTL in the IP-TTL, as the IP-TTL has been initialized at its maximum value on the Egress of the forward tunnel (255 for a Cisco router – see Sec. ??). As a consequence, while the forward path hides the MPLS cloud because the min operated on the forward PH (P_3) will select the IP-TTL which is lower, the return path indicates its presence because the returning PH (P_1) will select the LSE-TTL on the contrary. In general, a sufficient condition for this pattern to occur is if the returning Ingress, which is the forward EH, re-uses the MPLS cloud back.

In practice, it is interesting to mention that this MPLS behavior is strongly dependent on the implementation and the configuration. For instance, on some Juniper OS routers (at least with JunOS Olive) or when the UHP option is activated on some Cisco IOS (at least with the 15.2 version), the `MIN(IP-TTL, LSE-TTL)` operation is not – systematically – applied. The EH assumes that the propagation configuration is homogeneous among LERs. When it is not the case (`ttl-propagate` at one end of the tunnel and `no-ttl-propagate` at the other end), the PH (for PHP routers without `MIN(IP-TTL, LSE-TTL)`) or the Egress LER (for the Cisco UHP configuration) will use the IP-TTL instead of the LSE-TTL, leading so to a so-called *jump*

effect with `traceroute` (i.e., as many hops as the LSP length are skipped after the tunnel). Except when implicitly stated, we will consider homogeneous configurations (e.g., `ttl-propagate` on the whole tunnel) in the remainder of the paper. Finally, it is worth noticing that mixing UHP and PHP (hybrid configurations) can also result in uncommon behaviors.⁶

D. MPLS Tunnels Taxonomy

According to whether LSRs implement RFC4950 or not (Sec. ??) and whether they activate the `ttl-propagate` option or not (Sec. ??), MPLS tunnels can be revealed to `traceroute` following Donnet et al. [?] taxonomy.

Explicit tunnels are those with RFC4950 and the `ttl-propagate` option activated (this is the default configuration). As such, they are fully visible by `traceroute` including labels along the LSP. *Implicit* tunnels activate the `ttl-propagate` option but not the RFC4950. No IP information is missed but LSRs are viewed as ordinary IP routers, leading to a lack of “semantic” in the `traceroute` output. *Opaque* tunnels are obscured from `traceroute` as the RFC4950 is implemented but not the `ttl-propagate` option and moreover the EH that pops the last label has not received an explicit or implicit null label. Consequently,

⁶Those behaviors are described in Appendix ??.

only the EH is revealed while the remainder of the tunnel is hidden. Finally, *invisible* tunnels are hidden as the `no-ttl-propagate` option is activated (RFC4950 may or not implemented).

As illustrated in Fig. ?? (middle part), explicit tunnels are the ideal case as all the MPLS information comes natively with `traceroute`. For implicit tunnels, Donnet et al. [?] have proposed techniques for identifying the tunnel based on the way LSRs process ICMP messages (see Sec. ?? – the so-called UTURN) and the IP-TTL quoted in the `time-exceeded` message (the so-called qTTL) that is increased by one at each subsequent LSR of the LSP due to the `ttl-propagate` option (ICMP `time-exceeded` are generated based on the LSE-TTL while the IP-TTL of the probe is left unchanged within the LSP and, thus, quoted as such in the ICMP `time-exceeded`).

Opaque tunnels are only encountered with Cisco LSPs and are a consequence of the way labels are distributed with LDP (see Sec. ??). Indeed, a label proposal may be sent to all neighbors without ensuring that the LSP is enabled up to the Egress LER, leading so to opaque tunnels because an LSP can end abruptly without reaching the Egress LER (where the prefix is injected in the IGP) that should bind an explicit (UHP) or implicit null label (PHP). As illustrated in Fig. ??, opaque tunnels and their length can be identified thanks to the LSE-TTL. LSPs end without a standard terminating label (implicit or explicit null) and so they *break* with the last MPLS header of the neighbor that may not be an MPLS speaker.

The `traceroute` behavior, for invisible tunnel, is different according to the way the LSE is popped from the packet (i.e., UHP or PHP), as illustrated in Fig. ?. Invisible tunnels are problematic, as they lead to a false vision of the Internet topology, creating false links, and spoiling graph metrics, such as the node degree distribution [?]. In this paper, we distinguish between invisible tunnels produced with PHP and UHP. In Donnet et al. [?], only the class “Invisible PHP” was discussed. Vanaubel et al. [?] have proposed techniques for revealing the content of invisible MPLS tunnels only in the case of PHP.

With Invisible UHP tunnels, the behavior is clearly different, at least for Cisco routers using the 15.2 IOS. Upon reception of a packet with IP-TTL of 1, the Egress LER does not decrement this TTL, but forwards the packet to the next hop (CE_2 in the example), so that the Egress does not show up in the trace. In contrast, the next hop will appear twice: once for the probe that should have expired at the Egress and once at the next probe. UHP indeed provokes a surprising pattern, a duplicated IP at two successive hops, illustrated as “Invisible UHP” in Fig. ?.

On the contrary, PHP moves the POP function at the PH, one hop before the end of the tunnel. This PH does not decrement the IP-TTL whatever its value is. Except for some JunOS, the packet is still MPLS switched because the LSE-TTL has not expired on it. It is somehow surprising because for explicit and implicit tunnels, the PH replies on its own. It is because the LSE-TTL has also expired. In Fig. ??, we can see that there is no more asymmetry in path length for router P_3 proving so its reply does not follow a UTURN via

the Egress. On the contrary, any other LSR on the LSP builds a `time-exceeded` message when the LSE-TTL expires and then continues to MPLS switch their reply error packet to the Egress LER unless the `mpls ip ttl-expiration pop <stack size>` command has been activated for Cisco routers. It seems to be just an option for Juniper routers with the `icmp-tunneling` command.

Note that opaque and invisible UHP are Cisco tunnels (signature `< 255,255 >`) due to specific implementations. Invisible PHP are both Juniper (signature `< 255,64 >`), Linux boxes (signature `< 64,64 >`), or Cisco tunnels but they do not behave exactly the same as we will explain latter.

Sec. ?? extends techniques for revealing MPLS tunnels by proposing and implementing integrated measurement techniques for all tunnels (i.e., explicit, implicit, opaque, and both UHP and PHP invisible ones) in a single tool called TNT.

III. TNT: EXPLODING MPLS TUNNELS

This section introduces our tool, TNT (**T**race the **N**aughty **T**unnels), for revealing all MPLS tunnels along a path. TNT is an extension to Paris Traceroute [?] so that we avoid most of the problems related to load balancing. TNT has been implemented within scamper [?] and is freely available. Sec. ?? provides an overview of TNT, while Sec. ?? and Sec. ?? focus on techniques for revealing hidden tunnels and how those techniques are triggered.

A. Overview

Listing 1: Pseudo-code for TNT

```

1 Codes := 0, None ; 1, LSE ; 2, qTTL ; 3, UTURN ; 4, LSE-TTL ;
2 5, FRPLA ; 6, RTLA ; 7, DUP_IP .
3 trace_naughty_tunnel(target):
4   prev_hop = trace_hop(STARTING_TTL, target)
5   cur_hop = trace_hop(STARTING_TTL+1, target)
6   tun_code = check_indicators(prev_hop)
7
8   for (ttl=STARTING_TTL+2, !halt(ttl, target), ttl++)
9     state, tun_code_cur = None
10    #first check uniform tunnel evidence with indicators
11    if (tun_code == None)
12      tun_code = check_triggers(prev_hop, cur_hop)
13    #possibly fires TNT with triggers or opaques tunnels
14    if (tun_code >= LSE-TTL)
15      tun_code_cur = check_indicators(cur_hop)
16      #check if cur_hop does not belong to a uniform LSP
17      if (tun_code_cur != None)
18        #potential hidden tunnel to reveal
19        state = reveal_tunnel(prev_hop, cur_hop,
20                             tun_code)
21
22    #hop by hop and tunnel display
23    dump(prev_hop, tun_code, state)
24
25    #sliding pair of IP addresses
26    tun_code = tun_code_cur
27    next_hop = trace_hop(ttl, target)
28    prev_hop = cur_hop #candidate ingress LER
29    cur_hop = next_hop #candidate egress LER

```

TNT is conceptually illustrated in Listing ?. At the macroscopic scale, the `trace_naughty_tunnel()` function is a simple loop that fires probes towards each processed target. TNT consists in collecting, in a one [JJ one ?] hop-limited fashion, intermediate IP addresses (`trace_hop()` function) between the vantage point and the target. Tracing a particular destination ends when the `halt()` function returns true:

the target has been reached or a gap has been encountered (e.g., five consecutive non-responding hops, etc.). TNT uses a moving window of two hops such that, at each iteration, it considers a potential Ingress LER (i.e., `prev_hop`) and a potential Egress LER (i.e., `cur_hop`) for possibly revealing an invisible tunnel between them. Indicators are treated for the two consecutive candidate hops (i.e. both `cur_hop` at the current iteration and `prev_hop` which is prepared for the next iteration). Line 15, and 11 implicitly thanks to the copy at line 25, in Listing ?? check if those IP addresses do not belong to an uniform tunnel, i.e. a visible one.

For each couple of collected IP addresses with `trace_hop`, TNT checks for the presence of tunnels through so called *indicators* and *triggers*. The former provides reliable indications about the presence of an MPLS tunnel without necessarily requiring additional probing. Generally, indicators correspond to uniform tunnels (or to the last hop of an opaque tunnel), and are, mostly, basic evidence of visible MPLS presence such as LSE quoted in the ICMP `time-exceeded`— see Sec. ?? for details. Triggers are mainly unsigned values suggesting the potential presence of Invisible tunnels through a large shifting in path asymmetry — see Sec. ?? for details. When exceeding a given threshold τ , such triggers fire path revelation methods (function `reveal_tunnel()`) between the potential Ingress and Egress LERs as developed in Sec. ?. If intermediate hops are found, they are stored in a stack called `reveal_ip` (see Listing ??).

`STARTING_TTL` is a parameter used to avoid tracing repeatedly the nodes close to the vantage point, usually `STARTING_TTL` $\in [3, 5]$.

Finally, at each loop iteration, the collected data is dumped into a warts file, the scamper file format for storing IPv4/IPv6 `traceroute` records. The `dump()` function provides potential revealed hops and some code and state for determining the nature of the tunnel if any,

B. Indicators and Triggers

Listing 2: Pseudo-code for checking indicators

```

1 code check_indicators(hop):
2   if (is_mpls(hop))
3     if ( $\mathcal{T}_{LSE\_TTL} < \text{hop.lse\_ttl} < 255$ )
4       #opaque tunnel are both indicators and triggers
5       return LSE-TTL
6     else
7       #explicit tunnel
8       return LSE
9
10  if (hop.qttl > 1)
11    #implicit tunnel
12    return qTTL
13
14  #retrieve path length from raw TTLS
15   $L_R^{TE} = \text{path\_len}(\text{hop.ttl\_te})$ 
16   $L_R^{ER} = \text{path\_len}(\text{hop.ttl\_er})$ 
17
18  #UTURN will be turned into RTLA for junOS signatures
19  if ( $|L_R^{TE} - L_R^{ER}| > \mathcal{T}_{UTURN}$  && !signature_is_junOS(hop))
20    #implicit tunnel
21    return UTURN
22
23  return None

```

Tunnels indicators are evidence of MPLS tunnel presence and concern cases where tunnels (or parts of them) can be

directly retrieved from the original `traceroute`. They are used for explicit tunnels and uniform/visible tunnels in general. Explicit tunnels are indicated through LSEs directly quoted in the ICMP `time-exceeded`— See line ?? in Listing ?? and `traceroute` output on Fig. ?. It is worth noticing that Fig. ?? highlights the main patterns TNT looks for firing or not additional path revelation in a simple scenario where forward and return paths are symmetrical.

The indicator for Opaque tunnels consists in a single hop LSP, due to the way labels are distributed within some Cisco routers (see Sec. ??), with the quoted LSE-TTL not being equal to 1. This is illustrated in Fig. ?? where we get a value of 252 because the LSP is actually 3 hops long. This surprising quoted LSE-TTL is a piece of evidence in itself. This is illustrated in lines 3 \rightarrow 5 in Listing ??, where a hop will be tagged as Opaque if the quoted LSE-TTL is between a minimum threshold, \mathcal{T}_{LSE_TTL} (see Sec. ?? for fixing a value for the threshold) and 254 (LSE-TTL is initialized to 255 [?]). Note that this pattern resulting from an Opaque tunnel is both an indicator and a trigger: TNT passively interprets the tunnel end evidence and can complete it with new active measurements for possibly revealing the LSP content.

Implicit tunnels are detected through qTTL and/or UTURN indicators [?]. First, a qTTL value, the quoted IP-TTL collected within an ICMP `time-exceeded` message, greater than one likely reveals the `ttl-propagate` option at the Ingress LER of an LSP. For each subsequent `traceroute` probe within the LSP, the qTTL will be one greater, resulting in an increasing sequence of qTTL values in `traceroute`. This is considered in line ?? in Listing ?. Second, the UTURN indicator relies on the fact that LSRs as a default behavior, when the LSE-TTL of a packet expires, send the ICMP `time-exceeded` to the Egress LER which then forwards the packets on its own to the probing source, while an LSR replies directly to other probes (e.g., `echo-request`) using its own IP forwarding table if available resulting in general in a shorter return path. Thereby, UTURN is the signature related to the difference in these values. This is illustrated in Fig. ?? (Implicit and Explicit tunnels follow the same behavior except for RFC4950 implementation). On P_1 , we have $UTURN(P_1) = L_R^{TE} - L_R^{ER} = 9 - 3 = 6$. With a symmetric example, one can formalize the UTURN pattern for an LSR P_i in an LSP of length LL as follows:

$$UTURN(P_i) = 2 \times (LL - i + 1). \quad (1)$$

Due to the iBGP path heterogeneity (the IGP tie-break rule in particular), the BGP return path taken by the ICMP `echo-reply` message can be different from the BGP return path taken by the `time-exceeded` reply. This is illustrated in Fig. ?? where the two return paths in blue and red can differ even outside the AS (L_R^{TE} can be distinct of L_R^{ER}). As a result, and because it can differ at each intermediate hop, the UTURN indicator does not necessarily follow exactly Eqn. ??, leading so to a small limitation in practice from what we expect in theory: in particular, a value of 0 can hide a true Implicit hop.

For JunOS routers, the situation is quite different. On one hand it turns out that, by default (ie without enabling the `icmp-tunneling` feature), these routers send

time-exceeded replies directly, so the UTURN indicator is useless. Moreover, for routers having the JunOS signature, the same computation is used as the RTLA trigger. Thus, to avoid such a confusion, TNT introduces an exception for such OS signatures (line ?? in Listing ??), and first considers the difference as a trigger and then falls back to an indicator if the revelation fails. Moreover, when icmp-tunneling is enabled, time-exceeded replies start with a TTL of 254 implying a greater difference with echo-request replies as it can be seen on Fig. ?? : $UTURN(P_1) = L_R^{ER} - L_R^{TE} = 10 - 3 = 7$ instead of only 6 if P_1 runs a Cisco IOS.

Listing 3: Pseudo-code for checking triggers

```

1 code check_triggers(prev_hop, cur_hop):
2   if (prev_hop == cur_hop)
3     #invisible UHP tunnel
4     return DUP_IP
5   #retrieve path length from raw TTLs
6   L_R^{TE} = path_len(cur_hop.ttl_te)
7   L_R^{ER} = path_len(cur_hop.ttl_er)
8   L^T = cur_hop.ttl_i
9
10  if (sign_is_junOS(cur_hop))
11    #for the JunOS signature
12    if (L_R^{TE} - L_R^{ER} ≥ T_{RTLA})
13      #invisible PHP tunnel with JunOS
14      return RTLA
15  else
16    #for other signatures (raw TTLs are initialized the
17    same)
18    if (L_R^{TE} - L^T ≥ T_{FRPLA})
19      #invisible PHP tunnel with other known OS
20      return FRPLA
21  return None

```

Indicators are MPLS passive evidence that can also prevent (see Lines ?? and ?? in Listing ??) TNT from firing new probes (with the exception of LSE-TTL which is also a trigger for Opaque tunnels). On the contrary, triggers are active patterns suggesting the presence of invisible tunnels (both PHP and UHP) that could be revealed using additional probing (see Sec. ??). Listing ?? provides the pseudo-code for checking triggers.

First, we look for potential Invisible UHP tunnel (line ?? in Listing ??). As explained in Sec. ??, Invisible UHP tunnels occur with Cisco routers using IOS 15.2. When receiving a packet with IP-TTL of 1, the Egress LER does not decrement the TTL but, rather, forwards it directly to the next hop. Consequently, the Egress LER does not appear in the trace while, on the contrary, the next hop (CE_2 in Fig. ??) appears twice (duplicated IP address in the trace output).

The two remaining triggers, RTLA and FRPLA, work by using 3 path lengths: L_R^{TE} (the time-exceeded path length), L_R^{ER} (the echo-reply path length) and L^T (the forward traceroute path length). More precisely, RTLA is the difference between the echo-reply return path and the time-exceeded return path lengths, while FRPLA is the difference between the forward and the return path lengths. TNT tries to capture significative differences between these tunnel lengths to infer MPLS tunnels relying on two common practices of LSRs, in particular the EH, developed in the previous subsection. Both triggers are based on the idea that replies sent back to the vantage point are likely to also cross

back the MPLS cloud which will apply the MIN(IP-TTL, LSE-TTL) operation at the EH of the return tunnel. These triggers respectively infer the exact (RTLA) or approximate (FRPLA) return path length. Indeed, FRPLA is subject to BGP path asymmetry (and so to false positive or negatives) while this is not the case for RTLA when it applies (it may produce some false alarms but only due to ECMP). In the absence of invisible tunnel, we expect those triggers to have a value equal or close to 0 because in such a case we should have $L_R^{ER} = L_F^{TE} = L_R^{TE} = 1$ if BGP does not interfere. Therefore, any significant deviation from this value is interpreted as the potential presence of an Invisible MPLS cloud and, as such, leads TNT to trigger additional path revelation techniques (see Sec. ??). In practice (look at Fig. ??), we expect to have $L_R^{ER} = L_F^{TE} = 1$ (due to the MIN for the echo-reply return tunnel and the pipe mode for the forward tunnel) while L_R^{TE} directly provides the actual return tunnel length (with a value ≥ 1). It is because the MIN operation applied on the EH of the return tunnel here picks the LSE-TTL of the time-exceeded reply, rather than the IP-TTL for the echo-reply, as it has been setup with the same value as the IP-TTL, i.e. 255 (instead of 64 for echo-reply), on the return ingress LER (that is also the forward egress LER as illustrated in Fig. ??). RTLA is not subject to any BGP asymmetry because we have $L_R^{ER} = L_R^{TE}$, that is BGP return paths have the same length. Indeed, the two return paths use actually the same physical path but their distance differ only because of the MIN operation applied at the EH of the return tunnel if any.

To check for those triggers, we first extract the three key distances thanks to the IP-TTL of replies received on the vantage point (lines ?? \rightarrow ?? in Listing ??). As explained by Vanaubel et al. [?], RTLA only works with junOS routers, while FRPLA is more generic. Therefore, prior to estimate the triggers, TNT uses network fingerprinting (see Sec. ??) to determine the router brand of the potential Egress LER (line ?? in Listing ??).

In the presence of a junOS hardware, L_R^{TE} is compared to L_R^{ER} in such a way that, in the presence of a tunnel, L_R^{TE} is supposed to be larger than L_R^{ER} by a certain threshold representing the number of LSR in the return LSP (line ?? in Listing ??). This is expected as, with junOS, time-exceeded and echo-reply have different initial TTL value (see Table ??) and the RTLA trigger, with the MIN(IP-TTL, LSE-TTL) behavior at the Egress LER, exploits the TTL gap between those two kinds of probes (the L_R^{ER} appears longer than L_R^{TE} as the MIN operation result in a different pick). As a result, the threshold T_{RTLA} (see Sec. ?? for the parameter calibration) filters all LSP shorter than the limit it defines. On Fig. ??, one can observe on PE_2 that we have: $RTLA(PE_2) := L_R^{ER} - L_R^{TE} = L_R^{ER} - L_R^{TE} = 6 - 3 = 3$. It is because for the echo-reply, we have $TTL_{IP} = 64 = \min(TTL_{IP} = 64, TTL_{MPLS} = 252)$ instead of $TTL_{IP} = 252 = \min(TTL_{IP} = 255, TTL_{MPLS} = 252)$ for the time-exceeded. Note that an invisible shadow effect also applies for RTLA after the invisible tunnel.

FRPLA is more generic and applies thus to any configuration. FRPLA allows for comparing, at the AS granularity, the

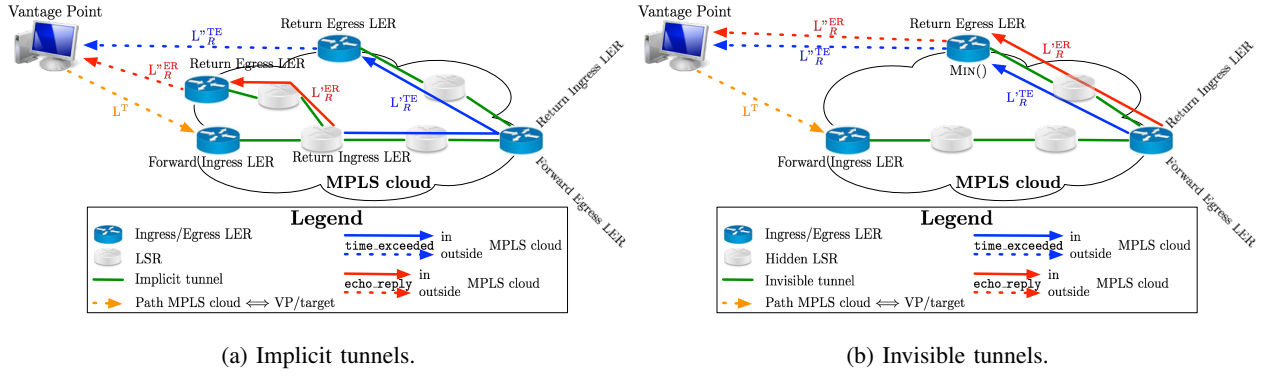


Fig. 3: Indicators and triggers illustration for implicit and invisible tunnels. Notations L_y^x and L_y^{x*} refer to a given sub-length of an ICMP packet x on the y path (y being the forward or return path and x being a echo-reply or traceroute ICMP packet, see Fig. ??). For example, L_R^{TE} gives the return path of the time-exceeded within the MPLS cloud, while L_R^{TE*} is the return path of the time-exceeded between the MPLS cloud and the vantage point. Consequently, we have $L_R^{TE} = L_R^{TE*} + L_R^{TE}$.

length distribution of forward (i.e., L^T) and return paths (i.e., L_R^{TE}). Then, we can statistically analyze whether we observe a shift (see Line ?? in Listing ??) as return paths are expected to be longer than forward ones, tunnel hops being not counted in the forward paths while they are taken into account in the return paths. This is illustrated in Fig. ?? (“Invisible PHP”) in which L^T is 3 while L_R^{TE} is equal to 6, leading so to an estimation of the return tunnel length of 3. In general, we expect that, when no IP hops are hidden, the resulting distribution will look like a normal distribution centered in 0 (i.e., forward and return paths have, on average, a similar length). If we observe, rather, a significant and generalized shift towards positive values, it is then likely that the AS makes use of the `no-ttl-propagate` option. In order to deal with path asymmetry, TNT uses a threshold, \mathcal{T}_{FRPLA} (see Sec. ?? for calibrating this parameter), greater than 0 to avoid generating too much false positives (revelation attempt with no tunnel). The MIN effect also results in an invisible shadow after the hidden LSP: $FRPLA(CE_2) = 2$ and $FRPLA(CE_3) = 1$, etc until the situation returns to normal. That is why TNT does not look for consecutive invisible tunnels. Finally, for Invisible UHP, one can observe that no MIN shift applies on the return path, only the duplicate effect applies here.

Threshold calibration will be discussed in details in Sec. ?. The optimal calibration can provide a 80/20 % success/error rates (errors being due to the BGP and ECMP noises). Moreover, the order in which TNT considers indicators and triggers, their codes, reflects their reliability and so their respective success rates (and their resulting states): the lower the code (i.e. the higher its priority is defined), the more reliable it is (and higher the revelation success rate). Thus, if a hop matches simultaneously multiple triggers (RTLA and FRPLA for example), we tag it with the highest priority one (i.e., RTLA on our example).

C. Hidden Tunnels Revelation

Listing 4: Pseudo-code for revealing invisible tunnels

```

state reveal_tunnel(ingress, egress, tun_code):
    buddy_bit = False
    #standard traceroute towards the candidate egress
    target = egress
    route = trace(STARTING_TTL, target)

    if (last_hop(route) != egress)
        #the target does not respond (revelation is not possible)
        return TARGET_NOT_REACH
    else if (ingress not in route)
        #the forwarding path differs (revelation is not possible)
        return ING_NOT_FOUND
    else if (distance(ingress, egress, route) > 1)
        #path segment revelation with DPR
        push_segment_to_revelation_stack(ingress, egress, route)
        return DPR
    else
        ttl = ingress.ttl_i + 1
        revealed_ip = extract_hop(ttl, route)

        for iTR=0;;
            if (revealed_ip == target)
                if (tun_code != DUP_IP || buddy_bit)
                    #no more progression in the revelation
                    break
                else
                    #try with the buddy for the DUP_IP trigger
                    target = buddy(revealed_ip)
                    buddy_bit = True
            else
                #a new hop has been revealed
                iTR++
                push_hop_to_revelation_stack(revealed_ip)
                target = revealed_ip
                buddy_bit = False

        revealed_ip = traceHop(ttl, target)

    if (iTR == 0)
        #no revelation (fail)
        return NOTHING_TO_REVEAL
    if (iTR == 1)
        #single hop revealed LSP (DPR ≈ BRPR)
        return 1HOP_LSP
    else
        #hop by hop revelation with BRPR
        return BRPR

```

Listing ?? offers a simplified view of the TNT tunnel revelation. The first step is to launch a standard `traceroute` towards the candidate Egress (line ?? in Listing ??). At this stage, we cannot conclude it is an actual tunnel so we use the

term “candidate” and update the output thanks to the `state` variable. During this first attempt, TNT may fail to reach the candidate Egress (line ??), or any intermediary target and/or the candidate Ingress (line ??) when collecting the active data. Otherwise, TNT may reveal a tunnel and four additional output states can arise:

- a tunnel of more than one hop is revealed in the first trace towards the egress (line ?? – DPR);
- nothing is revealed, the candidate Ingress and Egress are still consecutive IP addresses in the trace towards the candidate Egress (line ??);
- a tunnel of only one hop is revealed (line ??) although several iterations have been tried: DPR and BRPR cannot be distinguished for one hop LSPs.
- a tunnel of more than one hop is revealed but using several iterations (line ?? – BRPR).

With the default configuration on the 15.2 Cisco IOS, an additional test, called *buddy* (line ??), is required to retrieve the outgoing IP interface of the Egress LER (the right interface, in green, on PE₂ in Fig. ??) and so force replies from its incoming IP interface (the left one, in red, on PE₂ in Fig. ??). The `buddy()` function assumes a point-to-point connection between the Egress LER and the next hop (IP addresses on this point-to-point link are called *buddies*). In most cases, the corresponding IP addresses belong to a /31 or a /30 prefix [?]. Note that according to the IP address submitted to `buddy()`, the test may require additional probing to infer the right prefix. In particular, specific UDP probing is necessary in order to provoke `destination-unreachable` messages. Such error messages, as `time-exceeded` ones, enable to get the incoming interface of the targeted router (instead of `echo-reply` that are indexed with the target IP).

DPR (Direct Path Revelation) works when there is no MPLS tunneling for internal IGP prefixes other than loopback addresses, i.e., the traffic destined to internal IP prefixes is not MPLS encapsulated (default Juniper configuration but can also be easily configured on cisco – see Sec. ??) . With PHP, BRPR (Backward Recursive Path Revelation) works because the target (PE₂.left on Fig. ??) belongs to a prefix that is also advertised by the PH. Thus, the probe is popped one hop before the PH (P₃ on Fig. ??) and it appears in the trace towards the Egress incoming IP interface, e.g., PE₂.left on Fig. ??. BRPR is then applied recursively on the newly discovered interface until no new IP interface is revealed. With UHP, BRPR also natively works with the 12.4 IOS (i.e., without the *buddy* function), for the same reason as for PHP: the prefix locality shifts the end of the tunnel one hop before and, in this implementation, the EH replies directly. Vanaubel et al. [?] provides more details on DPR and BRPR. On the contrary, TNT needs to use the *buddy* function at each step for the 15.2 IOS enabling UHP because the EH silently forwards the packet one hop ahead.

IV. REPRODUCIBILITY AND PRACTICAL BGP CONFIGURATIONS

We use the GNS3 emulation environment for several purposes. First, we aim at verifying that the inference assumptions

we considered in the wild are correct and reproducible in a controlled environment. Second, some of the phenomena we exploit to reveal tunnels in the wild have been directly discovered in our testbed. Indeed, using our testbed we reverse-engineered the TTL processing (considering many MPLS configurations, we study the POP operation in particular) of some common OSES used by many real routers. Finally, it is also useful for debugging TNT to test its features in this controllable environment. Generally speaking, we aim at reproducing with GNS3 all common behaviors observed in the wild, and, on the opposite, we also expect to encounter in the wild all basic behaviors (based on standard MPLS and BGP configurations) we build and setup within GNS3.

In practice, we have considered four distinct router OSES: two Cisco standard IOS (12.4 and 15.2), and two virtualized versions of JunOS (Olive and VMX, the only Juniper OS we succeeded to emulate within GNS3). We envision in a near future to also test the IOS XR and some other Juniper OSES, if possible, but we believe that our tests are already representative enough of most behaviors existing in the wild.

In our emulations, topologies (see Fig. ??) are configured as follows. We assumed that LERs are AS Provider-Edge (PE) routers, i.e., AS border routers of the ISP running (e)BGP sessions. Two main configurations are then possible to enable transit tunneling at the edges. Either the BGP next-hop can be the loopback IP address of the PE itself (with `next hop self` command), or it belongs to the eBGP neighbor – and in that case the connected subnet or the IP address should be redistributed in the ISP. In both cases, there exists a LDP mapping, at each Ingress LER and for any transit forwarding equivalent class (FEC) between the BGP next-hop, the IGP next-hop, and the local MPLS label to be pushed. According to the configuration at the Egress LER, when the Ingress LER is in pipe mode (see Sec. ??), distinct kinds of tunnels emerge: Opaque, UHP Invisible, or PHP Invisible.

We consider the simplest possible configurations, i.e., homogeneous in terms of OS and MPLS+BGP configurations. They are consistent and symmetric MPLS configurations both in terms of signaling (LDP with the independent model using all IGP connected prefix – Cisco default mode – xor the ordered model using only loopback addresses – Juniper default mode)⁷ and the propagation operation in use (pipe xor uniform)⁸ at the domain scale. Using heterogeneous configurations, we discovered many intriguing corner cases that are discussed in Appendix ??. Some of them may result in incorrect TTL processing and other in hiding even more the tunnel to TNT. In some rare cases, only the Brute Force option of TNT is able to fire the path revelation that exposes tunnels.

The BGP configuration is also standard: the Egress LER enables the next-hop-self feature and so the transit traffic is tunneled via this IP address. All LSR also have a global IGP routing table thanks to a route reflector (they can answer natively to ping requests) or a redistribution in the IGP routing control plane. The AS scale BGP prefix is advertised using a global aggregation and the BGP inter-domain link is addressed

⁷See Sec. ??

⁸See Sec. ??

by the neighbor but can be redistributed in the IGP as a connected one.

Opaque tunnels show up when enabling the neighbor `<IP> ebgp-multihop <#hops>` command towards the BGP neighbor whose IP address is redistributed statically in the IGP. DPR works also with Cisco IOS when enabling the `mpls ldp label allocate global host-routes` command. Eventually, the command `mpls ldp explicit-null [for prefix-acl]` allows for revealing UHP tunnels without the use of the buddy.

Appendix ?? provides all the details of our emulations for both Cisco and Juniper configurations. All configurations were run on the topology provided by Fig. ?. The TNT running version is the one implemented in Python, available with GNS-3 scripts.??

V. TNT CALIBRATION AND PROBING COST

Sec. ?? shows that TNT relies mainly on four parameters when looking for tunnels indicators or triggers: \mathcal{T}_{LSE_TTL} for opaque tunnels, \mathcal{T}_{UTURN} for implicit tunnels, and \mathcal{T}_{RTLA} and \mathcal{T}_{FRPLA} for invisible tunnels. This section aims at calibrating those parameters (Sec. ??), as well as evaluating the probing cost associated to TNT (Sec. ??).

A. Measurement Setup

We deployed TNT on three vantage points (VPs) in the Archipelago infrastructure [?]. VPs were located in Europe (Belgium), North America (San Diego), and Asia (Tokyo).

TNT was run on April 6th, 2018 towards a set of 10,000 destinations (randomly chosen among the whole set of Archipelago destinations list). Each VP had its own list of destinations, without any overlapping.

From indicators and triggers described in Sec. ?? (see Listing ?? and ??), it is obvious that UTURN is equivalent to RTLA. Consequently, the \mathcal{T}_{UTURN} will have the same value than \mathcal{T}_{RTLA} .

For our tests, we varied \mathcal{T}_{RTLA} and \mathcal{T}_{FRPLA} between 0 and 4. A full measurement campaign was launched for each parameter value (thus, a total of 25 measurement runs).

B. Calibration

In our results, we have observed that abnormal⁹ LSE-TTL values values oscillate between 236 and 254, the main proportion being located between 250 and 254. It suggests thus that, in the majority of the cases, opaque tunnels are rather short. Consequently, a value of 236 for \mathcal{T}_{LSE_TTL} would be enough for detecting the presence of an opaque tunnel and launching additional measurements for revealing its content.

In some sense, the results associated to FRPLA and RTLA triggers can be seen as a binary classification. Triggers provide a prediction, while the results of additional probing gives the condition results. With that in mind, one can assess the performance of FRPLA and RTLA triggers through True Positive

⁹Abnormal here is to understand as “different from 1” which is the LSE-TTL value that should be obtained in ICMP `time-exceeded` messages. More details can be found in our technical report [?].

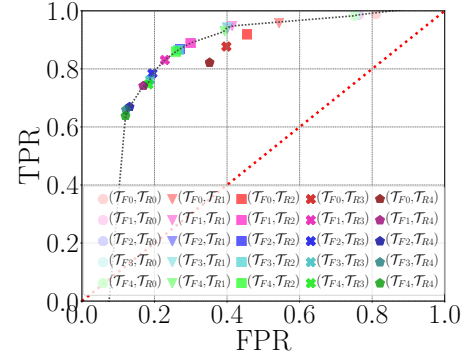


Fig. 4: Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve providing the efficiency of TNT according to values for invisible tunnels parameters. \mathcal{T}_{R_x} refers to \mathcal{T}_{RTLA} with the value x , while \mathcal{T}_{F_y} to \mathcal{T}_{FRPLA} with the value y .

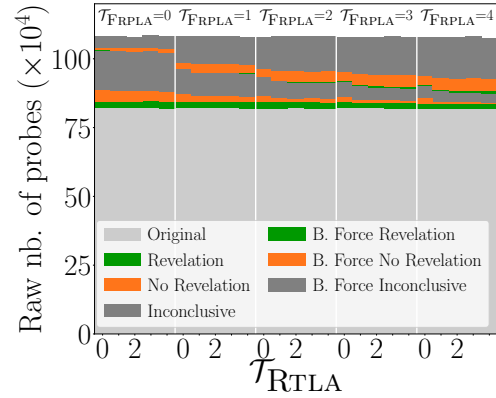


Fig. 5: Probing cost associated to TNT according to \mathcal{T}_{FRPLA} and \mathcal{T}_{RTLA} thresholds.

Rate (TPR – it triggers TNT for additional probing and it reveals invisible tunnels) and False Positive Rate (FPR – it triggers TNT for additional probing without revealing anything) and plot the results on a Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve. This is illustrated in Fig. ?. The ROC curve is obtained by varying the \mathcal{T}_{RTLA} and \mathcal{T}_{FRPLA} parameters between 0 and 4. The red dotted diagonal provides the separation between positive results for TNT (above part of the graph) and negative results (below part of the graph). Finally, the black dotted line is the interpolation of measurement results (at the exception of r_0 values which appear as being outliers).

We observe that the results are essentially positive for TNT. Some results, between $(\mathcal{T}_{R_1}, \mathcal{T}_{F_3})$ and $(\mathcal{T}_{R_2}, \mathcal{T}_{F_3})$, are even reasonably close to the perfect classification (upper left corner) and, thus, are considered as the best choice for fixing \mathcal{T}_{RTLA} and \mathcal{T}_{FRPLA} .

C. Probing Cost

Fig. ?? illustrates the probing cost associated to TNT. In particular, it focuses on additional measurements triggered by RTLA or FRPLA for revealing invisible tunnels. The light grey zone (labeled as “Original” on Fig. ??) corresponds to probes associated to `traceroute`. The green, orange, and

dark grey zones correspond to probes sent when additional measurements are triggered by RTLA or FRPLA. In particular, the green zone corresponds to additional measurements that were able to reveal the content of an invisible tunnel. On the contrary, the orange zone refers to additional measurements that failed, i.e., no invisible tunnel content was revealed. Finally, the dark grey zone refers to inconclusive revelation: the trigger has led to additional measurements but TNT was unable to reach the potential Egress LER (i.e., the IP address that engaged the trigger – `cur_hop` in Listing ?? – generally due to unresponsive IP interface) or TNT was unable to reach the potential Ingress LER (i.e., `prev_hop` in Listing ??).

If the amount of probes sent having revealed the content of an invisible tunnel remains globally stable whatever the values for $\mathcal{T}_{\text{FRPLA}}$ and $\mathcal{T}_{\text{RTLA}}$, the additional traffic generated by erroneous trigger (orange) or by uncertain revelation (dark grey) decreases while $\mathcal{T}_{\text{FRPLA}}$ increases. This results is aligned with Sec. ?? in which the best values for $\mathcal{T}_{\text{FRPLA}}$ were between 2 and 3. Also, $\mathcal{T}_{\text{RTLA}}$ seems to have a minor effect on the amount of probes sent.

Hatched zones (orange, dark grey, and green) corresponds to the amount of probes sent when a revelation is attempted for any IP address collected. Said otherwise, it is a brute force approach in which BRPR, DPR, or the buddy discovery are always started. First, on the contrary to normal behavior (i.e., revelation launched according to triggers), the amount of probes sent increases with $\mathcal{T}_{\text{FRPLA}}$ (the impact of $\mathcal{T}_{\text{RTLA}}$ is quite negligible), as well as the amount of inconclusive revelation. Second, the amount of probes having revealed an invisible tunnel is low compared to standard behavior.

VI. TNT TUNNELS QUANTIFICATION

This section aims at discussing how TNT behaves in the wild. In particular, it compares the performance of each indicator and trigger with respect to possible revelation techniques. Sec. ?? explains how measurements were, while Sec. ?? discusses the results obtained.

A. Measurement Setup

We deployed TNT on the Archipelago infrastructure [?] on April 23rd, 2018 with parameters $\mathcal{T}_{\text{FRPLA}}$ fixed to three and $\mathcal{T}_{\text{RTLA}}$ to one, according to results discussed in Sec. ??.

TNT has been deployed over 28 vantage points, scattered all around the world: 9 were in Europe, 11 in North America, 1 in South America, 4 in Asia, and 3 in Australia. The overall set of destinations, nearly 2,800,000 IP addresses, is inherited from the Archipelago dataset and spread over the set of 28 vantage points (to speed up the probing process).

TNT is based on Paris traceroute [?] and sends ICMP probes. A total of 522,049 distinct IP addresses (excluding traceroute targets) has been collected, with 28,350 being non publicly routable addresses (and thus excluded from our dataset). Each routable collected IP address has been pinged. More precisely, an IP address encountered multiple times by a given vantage point has been pinged only once, allowing us to collect additional data for fingerprinting (see Sec. ??). Our dataset and our processing scripts are freely available.??

B. Results

Table ?? provides the amount of probes sent by traceroute-like probing in TNT, ping, and buddy bit exploration. The row “original” refers to standard traceroute based revelation (i.e., nothing to reveal, explicit or implicit tunnels).

The main results from Table ?? is the amount of probes involved in inconclusive revelation, split between “target not reached” (TNT was unable to reach the potential Egress LER) and “ingress not found” (TNT was unable to reach the potential Ingress LER). In particular, “target not reached” involved twice more probes than revealed tunnels. Those particular inconclusive revelations might be explained by ICMP rate limiting between the traceroute probe and additional probing (both ping and BRPR/DPR). Another explanation is that those potential Egress LER responds to initial traceroute with an IP address that is not announced (i.e., it does not belong to the IP plane). As such, additional probing following the traceroute will fail as no route are available to reach them.

Table ?? provides the number of MPLS tunnels discovered by TNT, per tunnel type (Explicit, Implicit, Opaque, PHP Invisible, UHP Invisible). The indicators/triggers are provided, as well as the additional revelation technique used. Without any surprise, Explicit tunnels are the most present category (76% of tunnels discovered).

Implicit tunnels represent 5% of the whole dataset, with the UTURN indicator providing more results than qTTL. However, those results must be taken with care as UTURN has been proven to be inaccurate, while qTTL is much more reliable [?].

Opaque tunnels are less prevalent (1.7% of tunnels discovered). This is somewhat expected as opaque tunnels are the results of particular label distribution without Cisco MPLS clouds. It is also worth noticing that additional revelation technique (DPR or BRPR) does not really work with opaque tunnels (content of 98% of opaque tunnels cannot be revealed). This confirms previous results [?, Sec. 7.2].

The proportion of Invisible tunnels is not negligible (16% of tunnels in our dataset). Those measurements clearly contradicts previous suggestions stating that Invisible tunnels were probably 40 to 50 times less numerous than Explicit ones [?, Sec. 8]. More precisely, Invisible PHP is the most prominent configuration (87% of invisible tunnels belongs to the Invisible PHP category), confirming so our past survey [?]. RTLA appears as being the most efficient trigger. This is probably due to the order of triggers in the TNT code. As indicated in Listing ?? (Sec. ??), we first check for RTLA as it is proven to be more reliable than FRPLA. DPR works better than BRPR, which is obvious as it is indicated for RTLA trigger. For Invisible UHP, it is worth noticing that the buddy bit, prior to BRPR or DPR revelation, was required in nearly 25% of the cases. In other cases, a simple BRPR or DPR revelation was enough to get the content of the tunnel.

The column labeled “mix” corresponds to tunnels partially revealed thanks to BRPR and partially with DPR. Typically, it comes from *heterogeneous tunnels*. For instance, operators may deploy both Juniper and Cisco hardwares without any homogeneous prefixes distribution (i.e., local prefix for

Status	# probes		
	traceroute	ping	buddy
original	63,559,385	7,109,075	—
attempt revealed	2,190,275	206,842	19,181
no revelation	1,640,224	—	556
target not reached	4,174,404	—	9,888
Ingress not found	1,790,900	—	7,326

TABLE II: Raw number of probes sent by TNT over the set of 28 vantage points.

Tunnel Type	Indicator/Trigger	Revelation Technique				# Tunnels
		DPR	BRPR	1HOP_LSP	Mix	
Explicit	LSE headers	-	-	-	-	150,036
Implicit	qTTL	-	-	-	-	2,689
	UTURN	-	-	-	-	7,216
Opaque	LSE-TTL	22	17	43	-	3,346
Invisible PHP	RTLA	11,268	1,191	2,595	279	15,333
	FRPLA	5,903	2,555	3,260	1,012	12,730
Invisible UHP	DUP_IP	1,609	1,531	686	296	4,122
Total		18,802	5,294	6,584	1,587	195,525

TABLE III: Raw number of tunnels discovered by TNT over the set of 28 vantage points, per tunnel type (see Sec. ??). Color code for indicators/triggers is identical to Fig. ?. By definition, no additional revelation techniques to traceroute is required for Explicit and Implicit tunnels.

Juniper, all prefixes for Cisco – See Sec. ?? for details). Another possibility is that the tunnel is configured in such a way that two label popping techniques (PHP and UHP) co-exist. While not explained in Sec. ??, TNT can deal with those heterogeneous situations, making the tool quite robust to dangers encountered in the wild Internet (5% of the Invisible tunnels encountered).

Finally, the column labeled “1HOP_LSP” corresponds to tunnels that are too short (i.e., the LSP is made of a single LSR) to discriminate the revelation techniques used (both DPR and BRPR work). The proportion of very short invisible tunnels is quite large (20%) is aligned with previous works that already noticed the proportion of short Explicit tunnels [?], [?], [?].

VII. RELATED WORK

For years now, traceroute has been used as the main tool for discovering the Internet topology [?]. Multiple extensions have been provided to circumvent traceroute limits.

Doubletree [?], [?] has been proposed for improving the cooperation between scattered traceroute vantage points, reducing so the probing redundancy. Paris traceroute [?] has been developed for fixing issues related to IP load balancing, avoiding so false links between IP interfaces. tracebox [?] extends traceroute for revealing the presence of middleboxes along a path. YARRP [?] provides techniques for speeding up the traceroute probing process. Reverse traceroute [?] is able to provide the reverse path (i.e., from the target back to the vantage point). Passanger [?] and Discarte [?] extend traceroute with the IP record route option. Marchetta et al. [?] have proposed to use the ICMP Parameter Problem in addition to Record Route option in traceroute. Finally, tracenet [?] mimics traceroute for discovering subnetworks.

TNT is also in the scope of the *hidden router* issue, i.e., any device that does not decrement the TTL causing the device to be transparent to traceroute probing. Discarte and Passanger, through the use of IP Record Route Option, allows, to some extent, to reveal hidden router along a path. DRAGO [?] considers the ICMP Timestamp for also detecting hidden routers. TNT goes beyond those solutions as it does not rely on ICMP messages and IP option that are, generally,

filtered by operators either locally (i.e., the option/message is turned off on the router) or for transit packets (i.e., edge routers do not forward those particular packets). TNT only relies on standard messages (echo-request/echo-reply and time-exceeded) that are implemented and used by the vast majority of routers and, as such, has the potential to reveal much more information.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This paper is in the scope of Internet topology discovery at the IP interface level. In particular, we introduce TNT (Trace the Naughty Tunnels is Not Traceroute) that is an extension to Paris traceroute for revealing all MPLS tunnels along a path. As such, TNT has the potential to reveal more accurate information on Internet topology, leading so to more accurate Internet models (it has been shown, for instance, that Invisible tunnels have an impact on Internet models [?]). Also, TNT has the potential to provide information about the MPLS ecosystem of operators. Recent works on MPLS tunnels discovery have revealed that MPLS is well deployed by operators [?], [?], [?]. By running TNT on a daily (or nearly daily) basis from the Archipelago platform, we expect to see more researchers being aware of the impact MPLS can have on the Internet topology and its implications in network architecture deployed by operators.

This paper has been written with a reproducibility perspective. As such, TNT is freely available, as well as our collected dataset and scripts used for processing data.??

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Authors would like to thank kc claffy and her team at CAIDA for letting them deploying TNT on the Archipelago infrastructure. In addition, part of Mr. Vanaubel’s work was supported by an internship at CAIDA, under the direction of Young Hyun.

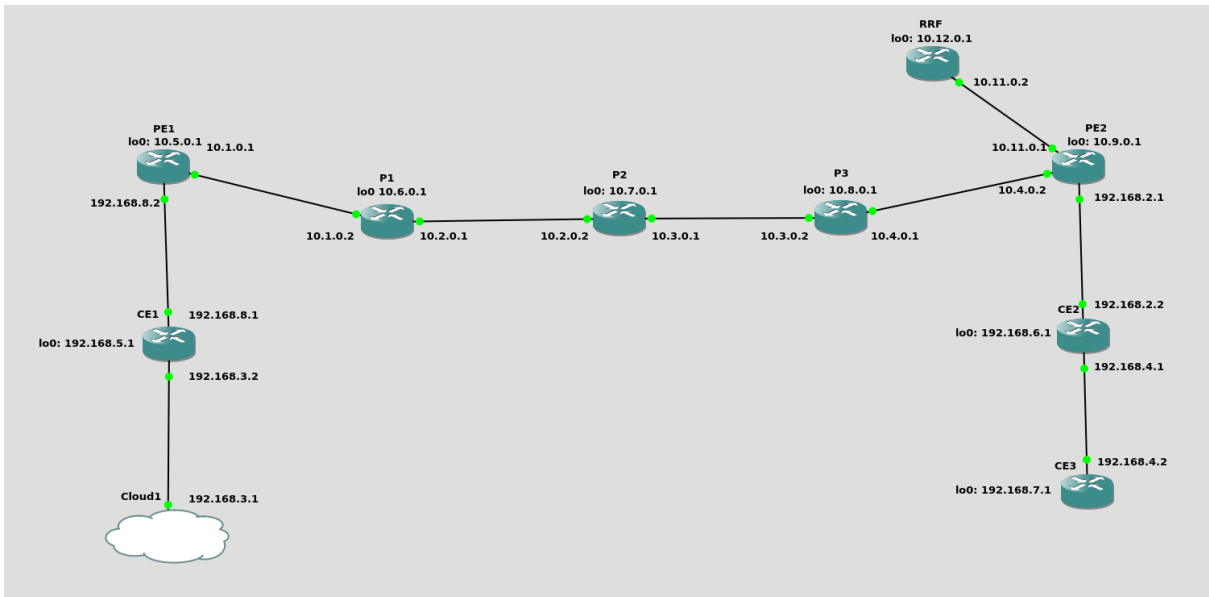


Fig. 6: Cisco topology used for GNS-3 tests. PE1 is the Ingress LER, PE2 the Egress LER, the LSP is set up between P1 and P3. The TNT target (i.e., the argument of `trace_naughty_tunnel()` function – See Listing ??) is the loopback address of CE3.

IX. APPENDIX

This appendix illustrates TNT validation through GNS-3 emulation. Multiple cases are proposed (more are proposed on the website?). TNT is able to deal with all those configurations, making it a pretty robust tool.

For our purposes during the validation, we implemented a TNT version in Python. This version is available with all GNS-3 scripts.??

A. Explicit Tunnels Validation

We first review Explicit tunnels, i.e., tunnels with RFC4950 and `ttl-propagate` enabled (see Sec. ??).

We do a distinction between Cisco (Appendix ??) and Juniper configurations (Appendix ??). PHP (LSE popped by P3) is also distinguished from UHP (LSE popped by Egress LER).

For each case, we provide the configuration of routers as well as the TNT output. Indicators and triggers (see Sec. ??) are provided, as well as ICMP `time-exceeded` and ICMP `echo-reply` TTLs.

1) *Cisco Configurations*: All configurations presented here were run on the topology provided by Fig. ??.

The first example configures an Explicit tunnel with PHP, under Cisco IOS 15.2. The TNT behavior is the one expected.

IOS 15.2 Configuration – PHP

```

1 P1
2 version 15.2
3 mpls label protocol ldp
4 router bgp 3333
5   neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
6
7 P2
8 version 15.2
9 mpls label protocol ldp
10 router bgp 3333
11   neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
12
13 P3
14 version 15.2
15 mpls label protocol ldp
16 router bgp 3333
17   neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
18
19 PE1
20 version 15.2
21 mpls label protocol ldp
22 router bgp 3333
23   redistribute connected
24   redistribute ospf 10
25   neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
26   neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
27   neighbor 192.168.8.1 remote-as 1024
28   neighbor 192.168.8.1 next-hop-self
29
30 PE2

```



```

31 version 15.2
32 mpls label protocol ldp
33 router bgp 3333
34 redistribute connected
35 redistribute ospf 10
36 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
37 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
38 neighbor 192.168.2.2 remote-as 2048
39 neighbor 192.168.2.2 next-hop-self

```

TNT running over Explicit tunnels with IOS 15.2 – PHP

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.7.1 (192.168.7.1)
2
3 1 left.CE1 (192.168.3.2) <255,255> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 27.083 ms
4 2 left.PE1 (192.168.8.2) <254,254> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 19.895 ms
5 3 left.P1 (10.1.0.2) <247,253> [ frpla = 6 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 6 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 19 | LSE-TTL : 1] 80.598 ms
6 4 left.P2 (10.2.0.2) <248,252> [ frpla = 4 ][ qttl = 2 ][ uturn = 4 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 20 | LSE-TTL : 1] 69.875 ms
7 5 left.P3 (10.3.0.2) <251,251> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 20 | LSE-TTL : 1] 68.98 ms
8 6 left.PE2 (10.4.0.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 78.17 ms
9 7 left.CE2 (192.168.2.2) <249,249> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 78.957 ms
10 8 192.168.4.2 (192.168.4.2) <248,248> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 110.598 ms

```

The next two configurations illustrates UHP with both IOS 12.4 and IOS 15.2. TNT works as expected.

IOS 12.4 Configuration – UHP

```

1 P1
2 version 12.4
3 mpls label protocol ldp
4 mpls ldp explicit-null
5 router bgp 3333
6 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
7
8 P2
9 version 12.4
10 mpls label protocol ldp
11 mpls ldp explicit-null
12 router bgp 3333
13 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
14
15 P3
16 version 12.4
17 mpls label protocol ldp
18 mpls ldp explicit-null
19 router bgp 3333
20 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
21
22 PE1
23 version 12.4
24 mpls label protocol ldp
25 mpls ldp explicit-null
26 router bgp 3333
27 redistribute connected
28 redistribute ospf 10
29 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
30 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
31 neighbor 192.168.8.1 remote-as 1024
32 neighbor 192.168.8.1 next-hop-self
33
34 PE2
35 version 12.4
36 mpls label protocol ldp
37 mpls ldp explicit-null
38 router bgp 3333
39 redistribute connected
40 redistribute ospf 10
41 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
42 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
43 neighbor 192.168.2.2 remote-as 2048
44 neighbor 192.168.2.2 next-hop-self

```

TNT running over Explicit tunnels with IOS 12.4 – UHP

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.7.1 (192.168.7.1)
2
3 1 left.CE1 (192.168.3.2) <255,255> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 22.651 ms
4 2 192.168.8.2 (192.168.8.2) <254,254> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 230.326 ms
5 3 left.P1 (10.1.0.2) <247,253> [ frpla = 6 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 6 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 22 | LSE-TTL : 1] 263.686
   ms
6 4 left.P2 (10.2.0.2) <248,252> [ frpla = 4 ][ qttl = 2 ][ uturn = 4 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 22 | LSE-TTL : 1] 358.238
   ms
7 5 left.P3 (10.3.0.2) <249,251> [ frpla = 2 ][ qttl = 3 ][ uturn = 2 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 16 | LSE-TTL : 1] 374.214
   ms
8 6 left.PE2 (10.4.0.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 0 | LSE-TTL : 1] 418.696

```

```

ms
7 left.CE2 (192.168.2.2) <249,249> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 655.848 ms
8 192.168.4.2 (192.168.4.2) <248,248> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 513.054 ms

```

IOS 15.2 Configuration – UHP

```

1 P1
2 version 15.2
3 mpls label protocol ldp
4 mpls ldp explicit-null
5 router bgp 3333
6 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
7
8 P2
9 version 15.2
10 mpls label protocol ldp
11 mpls ldp explicit-null
12 router bgp 3333
13 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
14
15 P3
16 version 15.2
17 mpls label protocol ldp
18 mpls ldp explicit-null
19 router bgp 3333
20 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
21
22 PE1
23 version 15.2
24 mpls label protocol ldp
25 mpls ldp explicit-null
26 router bgp 3333
27 redistribute connected
28 redistribute ospf 10
29 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
30 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
31 neighbor 192.168.8.1 remote-as 1024
32 neighbor 192.168.8.1 next-hop-self
33
34 PE2
35 version 15.2
36 mpls label protocol ldp
37 mpls ldp explicit-null
38 router bgp 3333
39 redistribute connected
40 redistribute ospf 10
41 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
42 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
43 neighbor 192.168.2.2 remote-as 2048
44 neighbor 192.168.2.2 next-hop-self

```

TNT running over Explicit tunnels with IOS 15.2 – UHP

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.7.1 (192.168.7.1)
2
3 1 left.CE1 (192.168.3.2) <255,255> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 7.64 ms
4 2 left.PE1 (192.168.8.2) <254,254> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 39.87 ms
5 3 left.P1 (10.1.0.2) <247,253> [ frpla = 6 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 6 ] [MPLS LSE | Label : 19 | LSE-TTL : 1] 100.632
ms
6 4 left.P2 (10.2.0.2) <248,252> [ frpla = 4 ][ qttl = 2 ][ uturn = 4 ] [MPLS LSE | Label : 20 | LSE-TTL : 1] 80.453 ms
7 5 left.P3 (10.3.0.2) <249,251> [ frpla = 2 ][ qttl = 3 ][ uturn = 2 ] [MPLS LSE | Label : 20 | LSE-TTL : 1] 100.815
ms
8 6 left.PE2 (10.4.0.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 109.089 ms
9 7 left.CE2 (192.168.2.2) <249,249> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 98.817 ms
10 8 192.168.4.2 (192.168.4.2) <248,248> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 119.842 ms

```

2) *Juniper Configurations:* For Explicit tunnels, Juniper Olive and VMX behave the same. We first provide the configuration and TNT output for Explicit tunnels without UTURN effect.

VMX configuration without UTURN effect.

```

1 P1
2 propagate ttl
3
4 P2
5 propagate ttl
6
7 P3
8 propagate ttl
9
10 PE1
11 propagate ttl
12
13 PE2
14 propagate ttl

```

TNT running over Explicit tunnels without UTURN effect.

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.2.102 (192.168.2.102)
2
3 1 CE1 ( 172.16.0.5) <255,64> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 2.682 ms
4 2 PE1 ( 172.16.0.2) <254,63> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 4.603 ms
5 3 left.P1 (192.168.1.2) <253,62> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 299824 | LSE-TTL : 1]
6 6.362 ms
7 4 left.P2 (192.168.1.6) <252,61> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 299792 | LSE-TTL : 1]
8 8.451 ms
9 5 left.P3 (192.168.1.10) <251,60> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 299792 | LSE-TTL : 1]
10 8.557 ms
11 6 left.PE2 (192.168.1.14) <250,59> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 8.285 ms
12 7 CE2 (192.168.2.2) <249,58> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 8.09 ms
13 8 CE3 (192.168.2.102) <248,57> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 8.142 ms

```

On the contrary to Cisco configuration, Juniper allows the UTURN effect, i.e., LSRs as a default behavior, when the LSE-TTL of a packet expires, send the ICMP time-exceeded to the Egress LER which then forwards the packets on its own to the probing source, while an LSR replies directly to other probes (e.g., echo-request) using its own IP forwarding table if available resulting in general in a shorter return path (see Sec. ??). This must be explicitly stated with the `icmp-tunneling` as provided below.

VMX configuration with UTURN effect.

```

1 P1
2 propagate ttl
3 icmp-tunneling
4
5 P2
6 propagate ttl
7 icmp-tunneling
8
9 P3
10 propagate ttl
11 icmp-tunneling
12
13 PE1
14 propagate ttl
15 icmp-tunneling
16
17 PE2
18 propagate ttl
19 icmp-tunneling

```

TNT running over Explicit tunnels with UTURN effect.

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.2.102 (192.168.2.102)
2
3 1 CE1 ( 172.16.0.5) <255,64> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 2.034 ms
4 2 PE1 ( 172.16.0.2) <254,63> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 4.646 ms
5 3 left.P1 (192.168.1.2) <246,62> [ frpla = 7 ][ rpla = 7(7) ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 7 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 299824 |
6 LSE-TTL : 1] 11.424 ms
7 4 left.P2 (192.168.1.6) <247,61> [ frpla = 5 ][ rpla = 5(-2) ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 5 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 299824 |
8 LSE-TTL : 1] 7.994 ms
9 5 left.P3 (192.168.1.10) <251,60> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 299824 | LSE-TTL : 1]
10 6.252 ms
11 6 left.PE2 (192.168.1.14) <250,59> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 8.585 ms
12 7 CE2 (192.168.2.2) <249,58> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 9.369 ms
13 8 CE3 (192.168.2.102) <248,57> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 9.232 ms

```

B. Opaque Tunnels Validation

Opaque tunnels only occur with Cisco routers, in some particular configuration (see Sec. ?? for details). The topology used for GNS-3 emulation is the one provided by Fig. ?. We only show tests for IOS 15.2 as the situation is the same with IOS 12.4. In our example, we were able to reveal the content of the Opaque tunnel through BRPR, on the contrary to in the wild TNT deployment where Opaque tunnels revelation did not work that much (see Sec. ??). We see thus here a difference between theory and practice.

IOS 15.2 Configuration – PHP

```

1 P1
2 version 15.2
3 mpls label protocol ldp
4 no propagate-ttl
5 router bgp 3333
6 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
7
8 P2
9 version 15.2
10 mpls label protocol ldp
11 no propagate-ttl
12 router bgp 3333
13 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333

```

```

14 P3
15 version 15.2
16 mpls label protocol ldp
17 no propagate-ttl
18 router bgp 3333
19   neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
20
21
22 PE1
23 version 15.2
24 mpls label protocol ldp
25 no propagate-ttl
26 router bgp 3333
27   redistribute connected
28   redistribute ospf 10
29   neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
30   neighbor 192.168.8.1 remote-as 1024
31
32 PE2
33 version 15.2
34 mpls label protocol ldp
35 no propagate-ttl
36 router bgp 3333
37   redistribute connected
38   redistribute ospf 10
39   neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
40   neighbor 192.168.6.1 remote-as 2048
41   neighbor 192.168.6.1 ebgp-multihop 2

```

TNT running over Explicit tunnels with IOS 15 – PHP

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.7.1 (192.168.7.1)
2
3 1 left.CE1 (192.168.3.2) <255,255> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttil = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 25.164 ms
4 2 left.PE1 (192.168.8.2) <254,254> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttil = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 40.06 ms
5
6 OPAQUE | Length estimation : 3 | Revealed : 3 (difference : 0)
7 2.1 [REVEALED] left.P1 (10.1.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttil = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 40.008 ms - step 2
8 2.2 [REVEALED] left.P2 (10.2.0.2) <252,252> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttil = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 40.058 ms - step 1
9 2.3 [REVEALED] left.P3 (10.3.0.2) <251,251> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttil = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 90.301 ms - step 0
10
11 3 left.PE2 (10.4.0.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 3 ][ qttil = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 16 | LSE-TTL : 252]
12 110.408 ms
13 4 left.CE2 (192.168.2.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 2 ][ qttil = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 80.195 ms
14 5 192.168.4.2 (192.168.4.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 1 ][ qttil = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 132.331 ms

```

C. Invisible Tunnels Validation

This section discusses Invisible tunnels, i.e., tunnels without RFC4950 and with `no-ttl-propagate` (see Sec. ??).

We do a distinction between Cisco (Appendix ??) and Juniper configurations (Appendix ??). PHP (LSE popped by P3) is also distinguished from UHP (LSE popped by Egress LER).

For each case, we provide the configuration of routers as well as the TNT output. Indicators and triggers (see Sec. ??) are provided, as well as ICMP time-exceeded and ICMP echo-reply TTLs.

1) *Cisco Configurations*: All configurations presented here were run on the topology provided by Fig. ??. The TNT running version is the one implemented in Python, available with GNS-3 scripts."

IOS 15.2 Configuration – PHP

```

1 P1
2 version 15.2
3 mpls label protocol ldp
4 no propagate-ttl
5 router bgp 3333
6   neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
7
8 P2
9 version 15.2
10 mpls label protocol ldp
11 no propagate-ttl
12 router bgp 3333
13   neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
14
15 P3
16 version 15.2
17 mpls label protocol ldp
18 no propagate-ttl
19 router bgp 3333
20   neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
21
22 PE1
23 version 15.2
24 mpls label protocol ldp
25 no propagate-ttl

```

```

26 router bgp 3333
27 redistribute connected
28 redistribute ospf 10
29 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
30 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
31 neighbor 192.168.8.1 remote-as 1024
32 neighbor 192.168.8.1 next-hop-self
33
34 PE2
35 version 15.2
36 mpls label protocol ldp
37 no propagate-ttl
38 router bgp 3333
39 redistribute connected
40 redistribute ospf 10
41 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
42 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
43 neighbor 192.168.2.2 remote-as 2048
44 neighbor 192.168.2.2 next-hop-self

```

TNT running over Invisible tunnels with IOS 15.2 – PHP. BRPR revelation launched through FRPLA

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.7.1 (192.168.7.1)
2
3 1 left.CE1 (192.168.3.2) <255,255> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 7.52 ms
4 2 left.PE1 (192.168.8.2) <254,254> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 29.927 ms
5
6 FRPLA | Length estimation : 3 | Revealed : 3 (difference : 0)
7 2.1 [REVEALED] left.P1 (10.1.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 50.051 ms - step 2
8 2.2 [REVEALED] left.P2 (10.2.0.2) <252,252> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 60.102 ms - step 1
9 2.3 [REVEALED] left.P3 (10.3.0.2) <251,251> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 59.876 ms - step 0
10
11 3 left.PE2 (10.4.0.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 3 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 80.38 ms
12 4 left.CE2 (192.168.2.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 2 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 69.89 ms
13 5 192.168.4.2 (192.168.4.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 1 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 99.833 ms

```

The configuration for running standard Cisco Invisible UHP tunnels is provided below. Such a configuration might be revealed through BRPR thanks to the DUP_IP trigger.

IOS 15.2 Configuration – Standard Cisco UHP configuration

```

1 P1
2 version 15.2
3 mpls label protocol ldp
4 no propagate-ttl
5 mpls ldp explicit-null
6 router bgp 3333
7 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
8
9 P2
10 version 15.2
11 mpls label protocol ldp
12 no propagate-ttl
13 mpls ldp explicit-null
14 router bgp 3333
15 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
16
17 P3
18 version 15.2
19 mpls label protocol ldp
20 no propagate-ttl
21 mpls ldp explicit-null
22 router bgp 3333
23 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
24
25 PE1
26 version 15.2
27 mpls label protocol ldp
28 no propagate-ttl
29 mpls ldp explicit-null
30 router bgp 3333
31 redistribute connected
32 redistribute ospf 10
33 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
34 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
35 neighbor 192.168.8.1 remote-as 1024
36 neighbor 192.168.8.1 next-hop-self
37
38 PE2
39 version 15.2
40 mpls label protocol ldp
41 no propagate-ttl
42 mpls ldp explicit-null
43 router bgp 3333
44 redistribute connected

```



```

45 redistribute ospf 10
46 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
47 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
48 neighbor 192.168.2.2 remote-as 2048
49 neighbor 192.168.2.2 next-hop-self

```

TNT running over Invisible tunnels with IOS 15.2 – UHP. BRPR revelation launched through DUP_IP

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.7.1 (192.168.7.1)
2
3 1 left.CE1 (192.168.3.2) <255,255> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 3.157 ms
4 2 left.PE1 (192.168.8.2) <254,254> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 29.92 ms
5
6 Duplicate IP (Egress : 10.1.0.2) | Length estimation : 1 | Revealed : 4 (difference : 3)
7 2.1 [REVEALED] left.P1 (10.1.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 50.043 ms - step 7 (Buddy
8 used)
9 2.2 [REVEALED] left.P2 (10.2.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 49.778 ms - step 5 (Buddy
10 used)
11 2.3 [REVEALED] left.P3 (10.3.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 69.834 ms - step 3 (Buddy
12 used)
13 2.4 [REVEALED] left.PE2 (10.4.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 80.594 ms - step 1 (Buddy
14 used)
15
16 3 left.CE2 (192.168.2.2) <252,252> [ frpla = 1 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 80.08 ms
17 4 left.CE2 (192.168.2.2) <252,252> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 89.891 ms
18 5 192.168.4.2 (192.168.4.2) <251,251> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 107.579 ms

```

With Cisco routers, it is possible to mimic an Invisible UHP tunnel with a Juniper configuration, meaning that the tunnel content might be revealed through DPR, thanks to the DUP_IP trigger. Such a configuration is achieved with the `allocate global host-routes` command.

IOS 15.2 Configuration – UHP Juniper-like

```

1 P1
2 version 15.2
3 mpls label protocol ldp
4 no propagate-ttl
5 mpls ldp explicit-null
6 mpls ldp label
7 allocate global host-routes
8 router bgp 3333
9 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
10
11 P2
12 version 15.2
13 mpls label protocol ldp
14 no propagate-ttl
15 mpls ldp explicit-null
16 mpls ldp label
17 allocate global host-routes
18 router bgp 3333
19 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
20
21 P3
22 version 15.2
23 mpls label protocol ldp
24 no propagate-ttl
25 mpls ldp explicit-null
26 mpls ldp label
27 allocate global host-routes
28 router bgp 3333
29 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
30
31 PE1
32 version 15.2
33 mpls label protocol ldp
34 no propagate-ttl
35 mpls ldp explicit-null
36 mpls ldp label
37 allocate global host-routes
38 router bgp 3333
39 redistribute connected
40 redistribute ospf 10
41 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
42 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
43 neighbor 192.168.8.1 remote-as 1024
44 neighbor 192.168.8.1 next-hop-self
45
46 PE2
47 version 15.2
48 mpls label protocol ldp
49 no propagate-ttl
50 mpls ldp explicit-null
51 mpls ldp label
52 allocate global host-routes

```

```

53 router bgp 3333
54 redistribute connected
55 redistribute ospf 10
56 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
57 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
58 neighbor 192.168.2.2 remote-as 2048
59 neighbor 192.168.2.2 next-hop-self

```

TNT running over Invisible tunnels with IOS 15.2 – UHP. DPR revelation launched through DUP_IP

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.7.1 (192.168.7.1)
2
3 1 left.CE1 (192.168.3.2) <255,255> [ frpla = 0 ][ qt1 = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 8.091 ms
4 2 left.PE1 (192.168.8.2) <254,254> [ frpla = 0 ][ qt1 = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 39.867 ms
5
6 Duplicate IP (Egress : 10.1.0.2) | Length estimation : 1 | Revealed : 4 (difference : 3)
7 2.1 [REVEALED] left.P1 (10.1.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qt1 = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 39.788 ms - step 2
8 2.2 [REVEALED] left.P2 (10.2.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qt1 = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 49.573 ms - step 2
9 2.3 [REVEALED] left.P3 (10.3.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qt1 = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 70.094 ms - step 2
10 2.4 [REVEALED] left.PE2 (10.4.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qt1 = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 89.171 ms - step 1 ( Buddy
    used )
11
12 3 left.CE2 (192.168.2.2) <252,252> [ frpla = 1 ][ qt1 = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 120.546 ms
13 4 left.CE2 (192.168.2.2) <252,252> [ frpla = 0 ][ qt1 = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 89.892 ms
14 5 192.168.4.2 (192.168.4.2) <251,251> [ frpla = 0 ][ qt1 = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 117.301 ms

```

It is also possible to build Invisible UHP tunnel in which the buddy mechanism will not work. But running BRPR will make the tunnel content visible. This configuration might be achieved with the `ip access-list` command, as follows:

IOS 15.2 Configuration – UHP without buddy

```

1 P1
2 version 15.2
3 mpls label protocol ldp
4 no propagate-ttl
5 router bgp 3333
6 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
7
8 P2
9 version 15.2
10 mpls label protocol ldp
11 no propagate-ttl
12 router bgp 3333
13 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
14
15 P3
16 version 15.2
17 mpls label protocol ldp
18 no propagate-ttl
19 router bgp 3333
20 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
21
22 PE1
23 version 15.2
24 mpls label protocol ldp
25 no propagate-ttl
26 router bgp 3333
27 redistribute connected
28 redistribute ospf 10
29 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
30 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
31 neighbor 192.168.8.1 remote-as 1024
32 neighbor 192.168.8.1 next-hop-self
33
34 PE2
35 version 15.2
36 mpls label protocol ldp
37 no propagate-ttl
38 mpls ldp explicit-null for BRPR-wo-buddy
39 router bgp 3333
40 redistribute connected
41 redistribute ospf 10
42 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
43 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
44 neighbor 192.168.2.2 remote-as 2048
45 neighbor 192.168.2.2 next-hop-self
46
47 ip access-list standard BRPR-wo-buddy
48 permit 10.9.0.1
49 deny any

```

TNT running over Invisible tunnels with IOS 15.2 – UHP. BRPR without buddy

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.7.1 (192.168.7.1)
2
3 1 192.168.3.2 (192.168.3.2) <255,255> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 7.299 ms
4 2 192.168.8.2 (192.168.8.2) <254,254> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 14.921 ms
5
6 Duplicate IP (Egress : 10.4.0.2) | Length estimation : 3 | Revealed : 4 (difference : 1)
7 2.1 [REVEALED] 10.1.0.2 (10.1.0.2) <253,253> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 36.443 ms - step 3
8 2.2 [REVEALED] 10.2.0.2 (10.2.0.2) <252,252> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 35.879 ms - step 2
9 2.3 [REVEALED] 10.3.0.2 (10.3.0.2) <251,251> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 66.288 ms - step 1
10 2.4 [REVEALED] 10.4.0.2 (10.4.0.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 64.19 ms - step 0
11
12 3 CE2 (192.168.2.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 3 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 116.643 ms
13 4 CE2 (192.168.2.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 2 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 99.93 ms
14 5 192.168.4.2 (192.168.4.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 1 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 94.185 ms

```

2) *Juniper Configurations:* Juniper, with Olive OS, does not apply the MIN(IP-TTL, LSE-TTL) at the exist of the MPLS cloud. As such, the FRPLA trigger is equal to 1. Invisible UHP tunnel can, then, be revealed through DPR. Juniper routers can be configured as followed:

Juniper Olive Configuration

```

1 P1
2 no-propagate-ttl
3
4 P2
5 no-propagate-ttl
6
7 P3
8 no-propagate-ttl
9
10 PE1
11 no-propagate-ttl
12
13 PE2
14 no-propagate-ttl

```

TNT running over Juniper Olive

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.2.102 (192.168.2.102)
2
3 1 CE1 ( 172.16.0.5) <255,64> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 0.638 ms
4 2 PE1 ( 172.16.0.2) <254,63> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 1.898 ms
5
6 FRPLA | Length estimation : 1 | Revealed : 3 (difference : 2)
7 2.1 [REVEALED] left.P1 (192.168.1.2) <253,62> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 3.039 ms - step 0
8 2.2 [REVEALED] left.P2 (192.168.1.6) <252,61> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 3.951 ms - step 0
9 2.3 [REVEALED] left.P3 (192.168.1.10) <252,61> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 4.906 ms - step 0
10
11 3 left.PE2 (192.168.1.14) <252,61> [ frpla = 1 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 7.043 ms
12 4 CE2 (192.168.2.2) <252,61> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 6.891 ms
13 5 CE3 (192.168.2.102) <251,60> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 8.978 ms

```

On the contrary to Olive, VMX applies the MIN(IP-TTL, LSE-TTL) function. As such, the behavior observed is the theoretical one. It is worth noting that configuring Juniper VMX for Invisible MPLS tunnels is identical than with Olive. Invisible tunnels are, now, revealed through DPR, with the RTLA trigger.

Juniper VMX Configuration

```

1 P1
2 no-propagate-ttl
3
4 P2
5 no-propagate-ttl
6
7 P3
8 no-propagate-ttl
9
10 PE1
11 no-propagate-ttl
12
13 PE2
14 no-propagate-ttl

```

TNT running over Juniper VMX

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.2.102 (192.168.2.102)
2
3 1 CE1 ( 172.16.0.5) <255,64> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 0.96 ms
4 2 PE1 ( 172.16.0.2) <254,63> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 1.66 ms
5
6 RTLA | Length estimation : 3 | Revealed : 3 (difference : 0)
7 2.1 [REVEALED] left.P1 (192.168.1.2) <253,62> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 8.8 ms - step 0
8 2.2 [REVEALED] left.P2 (192.168.1.6) <252,62> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 2.134 ms - step 0

```

```

9      2.3 [REVEALED] left.P3 (192.168.1.10) <251,62> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 3.352 ms - step 0
10
11      3 left.PE2 (192.168.1.14) <250,62> [ frpla = 3 ][ rtl = 3(3) ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 3 ] 4.569 ms
12      4 CE2 (192.168.2.2) <250,61> [ frpla = 2 ][ rtl = 2(-1) ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 2 ] 4.625 ms
13      5 CE3 (192.168.2.102) <250,60> [ frpla = 1 ][ rtl = 1(-1) ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 1 ] 4.355 ms

```

D. Corner Cases

This section discusses corner cases, i.e., unlikely configurations that may arise when MPLS is not homogeneously configured throughout the tunnel. TNT cannot deal with those situations, but they have not been encountered in practice.

1) *Cisco*: The following Cisco configuration (for IOS 15.2) is supposed to build an UHP Invisible tunnel. However, on the contrary to configuration provided in Appendix ??, the management of LSE-TTL is heterogeneous over the tunnel. Indeed, in this case, the Ingress LER is not configured with the `no-ttl-propagate` (on the contrary to other routers in the tunnel). As such, the the `MIN(IP-TTL, LSE-TTL)` operation is not – systematically – applied. The EH assumes that the propagation configuration is homogeneous among LERs, which is not the case here. Therefore, the Egress LER will use the IP-TTL instead of the LSE-TTL when popping the LSE. As consequence, and as shown by the TNT output, we observe that

- 1) the MPLS tunnel is actually Explicit;
- 2) a certain number of hops (here, CE2 is missing – see Fig. ?? for the Cisco topology we use) after the MPLS tunnel are missing, leading to a so-called *jump* effect.

We call such a configuration *Explicit Jump*.

Cisco 15.2 Explicit Jump configuration

```

1 P1
2 version 15.2
3 mpls label protocol ldp
4 no propagate-ttl
5 mpls ldp explicit-null
6 router bgp 3333
7 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
8
9 P2
10 version 15.2
11 mpls label protocol ldp
12 no propagate-ttl
13 mpls ldp explicit-null
14 router bgp 3333
15 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
16
17 P3
18 version 15.2
19 mpls label protocol ldp
20 no propagate-ttl
21 mpls ldp explicit-null
22 router bgp 3333
23 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
24
25 PE1
26 version 15.2
27 mpls label protocol ldp
28 mpls ldp explicit-null
29 router bgp 3333
30 redistribute connected
31 redistribute ospf 10
32 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
33 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
34 neighbor 192.168.8.1 remote-as 1024
35 neighbor 192.168.8.1 next-hop-self
36
37 PE2
38 version 15.2
39 mpls label protocol ldp
40 no propagate-ttl
41 mpls ldp explicit-null
42 router bgp 3333
43 redistribute connected
44 redistribute ospf 10
45 neighbor 10.12.0.1 remote-as 3333
46 neighbor 10.12.0.1 next-hop-self
47 neighbor 192.168.2.2 remote-as 2048
48 neighbor 192.168.2.2 next-hop-self

```

TNT running over Cisco Explicit Jump

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.7.1 (192.168.7.1)
2
3      1 left.CE1 (192.168.3.2) <255,255> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 8.407 ms
4      2 left.PE1 (192.168.8.2) <254,254> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 29.477 ms
5      3 left.P1 (10.1.0.2) <250,253> [ frpla = 3 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 3 ] [MPLS LSE | Label : 19 | LSE-TTL : 1] 79.929 ms
6      4 left.P2 (10.2.0.2) <250,252> [ frpla = 2 ][ qttl = 2 ][ uturn = 2 ] [MPLS LSE | Label : 20 | LSE-TTL : 1] 80.573 ms
7      5 left.P3 (10.3.0.2) <250,251> [ frpla = 1 ][ qttl = 3 ][ uturn = 1 ] [MPLS LSE | Label : 20 | LSE-TTL : 1] 109.577 ms

```

```

ms
8 6 left.PE2 (10.4.0.2) <250,250> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 79.766 ms
9 7 192.168.4.2 (192.168.4.2) <250,250> [ frpla = -1 ][ qttl = 2 ][ uturn = 0 ] 109.357 ms

```

2) *Juniper*: In the fashion of Cisco, Juniper with the Olive OS (this is not possible with VMX) allows to configure an Explicit Jump tunnel. The configuration provided below shows an MPLS tunnel with PHP. The EH is configured with the `no-ttl-propagate` option, while other routers are configured with `ttl-propagate`. As such, P3 will not apply the `MIN(IP-TTL, LSE-TTL)` when popping the label, leading so to a jump effect that is nearly as long as the tunnel itself (the Egress LER and CE2 are missing).

Olive Explicit Jump configuration

```

1 P1
2 propagate ttl
3
4 P2
5 propagate-ttl
6
7 P3
8 no-propagate-ttl
9
10 PE1
11 propagate ttl
12
13 PE2
14 propagate ttl

```

TNT running over Olive Explicit Jump

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.2.102 (192.168.2.102)
2
3 1 CE1 ( 172.16.0.5) <255,64> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 0.622 ms
4 2 PE1 ( 172.16.0.2) <254,63> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 1.749 ms
5 3 left.P1 (192.168.1.2) <253,62> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 299824 | LSE-TTL : 1]
6 2.799 ms
7 4 left.P2 (192.168.1.6) <252,252> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 299792 | LSE-TTL : 1]
8 3.725 ms
9 5 left.P3 (192.168.1.10) <251,251> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ][MPLS LSE | Label : 299776 | LSE-TTL : 1]
10 7.784 ms
11 6 CE3 (192.168.2.102) <248,57> [ frpla = 2 ][ qttl = 2 ][ uturn = 0 ] 8.884 ms

```

The last configuration is Juniper Olive with an *Invisible Jump* configuration. This is somewhat equivalent to the Explicit Jump but for Invisible tunnels. In that case, when P3 (PHP is configured) will pop the LSE, it will not apply the `MIN(IP-TTL, LSE-TTL)`. As a result, TNT will see the Ingress LER (PE1) and several hops after P3 will be missed (Egress LER and CE2). The tunnel is invisible and triggers do not work.

Olive Invisible Jump configuration

```

1 P1
2 no-propagate ttl
3
4 P2
5 no-propagate-ttl
6
7 P3
8 propagate-ttl
9
10 PE1
11 no-propagate ttl
12
13 PE2
14 propagate ttl

```

TNT running over Olive Invisible Jump

```

1 Launching TNT: 192.168.2.102 (192.168.2.102)
2
3 1 CE1 ( 172.16.0.5) <255,64> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 0.515 ms
4 2 PE1 ( 172.16.0.2) <254,63> [ frpla = 0 ][ qttl = 1 ][ uturn = 0 ] 1.712 ms
5 3 CE3 (192.168.2.102) <251,60> [ frpla = 2 ][ qttl = 250 ][ uturn = 0 ] 8.553 ms

```