

White Paper

Virtual Extensible LAN (VXLAN) Best Practices

White Paper

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Introduction

Virtual Extensible LAN (VXLAN) is an encapsulation method to extend layer 2 traffic over a layer 3 or IP -based network. VXLAN relies on multicast in the network core. It utilizes flood and learn for MAC learning and Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) resolution. This document covers common for deployments, designs, and best practices for VXLAN on the Cisco Nexus[®] Family of products.

VXLAN Overview

As its name indicates, VXLAN is designed to provide the same Ethernet layer 2 network services as a virtual LAN (VLAN) does today, but with greater extensibility and flexibility. Compared to VLAN, VXLAN offers the following benefits:

- Flexible placement of multitenant segments throughout the data center. It provides a solution to extend layer 2 segments over the underlying shared network infrastructure so that tenant workload can be placed across physical pods in the data center.
- Higher scalability to address more layer 2 segments. VLANs use a 12-bit VLAN ID to address layer 2 segments, which results in limiting scalability of only 4094 VLANs. VXLAN uses a 24-bit segment ID known as the VXLAN network identifier (VNID), which enables up to 16 million VXLAN segments to coexist in the same administrative domain.
- Better utilization of available network paths in the underlying infrastructure. VLAN uses the Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) for loop prevention, which results in use of less than half of the network links in a network since redundant paths are blocked. In contrast, VXLAN packets are transferred through the underlying network based on its layer 3 header and can take complete advantage of layer 3 routing, equal-cost multipath (ECMP) routing, and link aggregation protocols to use all available paths.

VXLAN Encapsulation and Packet Format

VXLAN is a layer 2 overlay scheme over a layer 3 network. It uses MAC Address -in-User Datagram Protocol (MAC-in-UDP) encapsulation to provide a means to extend layer 2 segments across the data center network. VXLAN is a solution to support a flexible, large-scale multitenant environment over a shared common physical infrastructure. The transport protocol over the physical data center network is IP plus User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

VXLAN defines a MAC-in-UDP encapsulation scheme where the original layer 2 frame has a VXLAN header added and is then placed in a UDP-IP packet. With this MAC-in-UDP encapsulation, VXLAN tunnels a layer 2 network over a layer 3 network. The VXLAN packet format is shown in Figure 1.





As shown in Figure 1, VXLAN introduces an 8-byte VXLAN header that consists of a 24-bit VNID and a few reserved bits. The VXLAN header, together with the original Ethernet frame, goes in the UDP payload. The 24-bit VNID is used to identify layer 2 segments and to maintain layer 2 isolation between the segments. With all 24 bits in VNID, VXLAN can support 16 million LAN segments.

VXLAN Tunnel Endpoint

VXLAN uses VXLAN tunnel endpoint (VTEP) devices to map tenants' end devices to VXLAN segments and to perform VXLAN encapsulation and de-encapsulation. Each VTEP function has two interfaces: One is a switch interface on the local LAN segment to support local endpoint communication through bridging, and the other is an IP interface to the transport IP network.

The IP interface has a unique IP address that identifies the VTEP device on the transport IP network known as the infrastructure VLAN. The VTEP device uses this IP address to encapsulate Ethernet frames and transmits the encapsulated packets to the transport network through the IP interface. A VTEP device also discovers the remote VTEPs for its VXLAN segments and learns remote MAC Address -to-VTEP mappings through its IP interface. The functional components of VTEPs and the logical topology that is created for layer 2 connectivity across the transport IP network are shown in Figure 2.





The VXLAN segments are independent of the underlying network topology; conversely, the underlying IP network between VTEPs is independent of the VXLAN overlay. It routes the encapsulated packets based on the outer IP address header, which has the initiating VTEP as the source IP address and the terminating VTEP as the destination IP address.

VXLAN Packet Forwarding Flow

VXLAN uses stateless tunnels between VTEPs to transmit traffic of the overlay layer 2 network through the layer 3 transport network. An example of a VXLAN packet forwarding flow is shown in Figure 3.





In Figure 3, Host-A and Host-B in VXLAN segment 10 communicate with each other through the VXLAN tunnel between VTEP-1 and VTEP-2. This example assumes that address learning has been done on both sides, and corresponding MAC-to-VTEP mappings exist on both VTEPs.

When Host-A sends traffic to Host-B, it forms Ethernet frames with MAC-B address of Host-B as the destination MAC address and sends them out to VTEP-1. VTEP-1, with a mapping of MAC-B to VTEP-2 in its mapping table, performs VXLAN encapsulation on the packets by adding VXLAN, UDP, and an outer IP address header to it. In the outer IP address header, the source IP address is the IP address of VTEP-1, and the destination IP address is the IP address of VTEP-2. VTEP-1 then performs an IP address lookup for the IP address of VTEP-2 to resolve the next hop in the transit network and subsequently uses the MAC address of the next-hop device to further encapsulate the packets in an Ethernet frame to send to the next-hop device.

The packets are routed toward VTEP-2 through the transport network based on their outer IP address header, which has the IP address of VTEP-2 as the destination address. After VTEP-2 receives the packets, it strips off the outer Ethernet, IP, UDP, and VXLAN headers, and forwards the packets to Host-B, based on the original destination MAC address in the Ethernet frame.

VXLAN Implementation on Cisco Nexus Switches

Cisco[®] Nexus switches support the hardware-based VXLAN function that extends layer 2 connectivity across the layer 3 transport network and provides a high-performance gatewaybetween VXLAN and non-VXLAN infrastructures. The following sections provide the details of VXLAN implementation on Cisco Nexus switches.

Layer 2 Mechanisms for Broadcast, Unknown Unicast, and Multicast Traffic

VXLAN on Cisco Nexus switches uses existing layer 2 mechanisms - flooding and dynamic MAC address learning - to:

- Transport broadcast, unknown unicast, and multicast traffic
- Discover remote VTEPs
- Learn remote host MAC addresses and MAC-to-VTEP mappings for each VXLAN segment

For these traffic types, IP multicast is used to reduce the flooding scope of the set of hosts that are participating in the VXLAN segment.

Each VXLAN segment, or VNID, is mapped to an IP multicast group in the transport IP network. Each VTEP device is independently configured and joins this multicast group as an IP host through the Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP). The IGMP joins trigger Protocol Independent Multicast (PIM) joins and signaling through the transport network for the particular multicast group. The multicast distribution tree for this group is built through the transport network based on the locations of participating VTEPs. The multicast tunnel of a VXLAN segment through the underlying IP network is shown in Figure 4.





This multicast group shown in Figure 4 is used to transmit VXLAN broadcast, unknown unicast, and multicast traffic through the IP network, limiting layer 2 flooding to those devices that have end systems participating in the same VXLAN segment. VTEPs communicate with one another through the flooded or multicast traffic in this multicast group.

Overloading of multicast groups is supported and should be carefully mapped out in order to prevent flooding of unnecessary information to VTEPs. For instance, if VTEP-1 only participates in VNI 10000 and VTEP-2 participates in VNIs 10000 and 20000, than VTEP-1 will see all broadcast, unknown unicast and multicast (BUM) traffic for VNI 20000 and have to drop that traffic.

Remote VTEP Discovery and Tenant Address Learning

The Cisco Nexus VXLAN implementation uses the classic layer 2 data-plane flooding and learning mechanisms for remote VTEP discovery and tenant address learning. The network in Figure 4 is an example that shows the learning process.

The tenant VXLAN segment has VNID 10 and uses the multicast group 239.1.1.1 over the transport network. It has three participating VTEPs in the data center. Assume that no address learning has been performed between locations. End System A (with IP-A, MAC-A) starts IP communication with End System B (with IP-B, MAC-B). The sequence of steps is shown in Figure 5.





- 1. End System A sends out an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) request for IP-B on its Layer 2 VXLAN network.
- 2. VTEP-1 receives the ARP request. It does not yet have a mapping for IP-B. VTEP-1 encapsulates the ARP request in an IP multicast packet and forwards it to the VXLAN multicast group. The encapsulated multicast packet has the IP address of VTEP-1 as the source IP address and the VXLAN multicast group address as the destination IP address.
- 3. The IP multicast packet is distributed to all members in the tree. VTEP-2 and VTEP-3 receive the encapsulated multicast packet because they've joined the VXLAN multicast group.

They de-encapsulate the packet and check its VNID in the VXLAN header. If it matches their configured VXLAN segment VNID, they forward the ARP request to their local VXLAN network. They also learn the IP address of VTEP-1 from the outer IP address header and inspect the packet to learn the MAC address of End System A, placing this mapping in the local table.

- End System B receives the ARP request forwarded by VTEP-2. It responds with its own MAC address (MAC-B), and learns the IP-A-to-MAC-A mapping.
- VTEP-2 receives the ARP reply of End System B that has MAC-A as the destination MAC address. It now knows about MAC-A-to-IP-1 mapping. It can use the unicast tunnel to forward the ARP reply back to VTEP-1. In the encapsulated unicast packet, the source IP address is IP-2 and the destination IP address is IP-1. The ARP reply is encapsulated in the UDP payload.
- 6. VTEP-1 receives the encapsulated ARP reply from VTEP-2. It de-encapsulates and forwards the ARP reply to End System A. It also learns the IP address of VTEP-2 from the outer IP address header and inspects the original packet to learn MAC-B-to-IP-2 mapping.
- 7. Subsequent IP packets between End Systems A and B are unicast forwarded, based on the mapping information on VTEP-1 and VTEP-2, using the VXLAN tunnel between them.
- 8. VTEP-1 can optionally perform proxy ARPs for subsequent ARP requests for IP-B to reduce the flooding over the transport network.

VXLAN Hardware and Software Support

Cisco Nexus switches can support VXLAN as long as the right hardware, software, and licenses are used.

What is needed to support VXLAN on Cisco Nexus switches:

- Cisco Nexus 5600 Series Switches
 - Software Cisco NX-OS 7.1(0)N1(1) or later
 - · License LAN Enterprise Services (Requires LAN Base)

Sample Underlay Configuration

The following sample underlay configuration is used as the base configuration on which we build the Layer 2 and Layer 3 VXLAN Gateways on.

ip pim sparse-mode

router ospf 1

Configuring a Layer 2 VXLAN Gateway on a Cisco Nexus 5600

Complete these steps to configure VXLAN on the Cisco Nexus 5600:

- 1. Before configuring VXLAN-specific commands, the underlaymust be configured. An example configuration is included in the "Sample UnderlayConfiguration" Section.
- 2. Enable VXLAN features

```
feature nv overlay
feature vn-segment-vlan-based
```

3. Map VXLAN VNIs to VLANs

```
vlan 100
vn-segment 8500
```

4. Create a loopback to be used as the source for the VTEP

```
interface loopback1
  ip address 10.3.3.3/32
  ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
  ip pim sparse-mode
```

5. Create the network virtualization endpoint (nve). This is your encapsulation and decapsulation point.

```
interface nvel
```

```
no shutdown
source-interface loopback1
member vni 8500 mcast-group 224.1.1.5
```

Configuring a Layer 3 VXLAN Gateway on a Cisco Nexus 5600

Complete these steps to configure VXLAN on the Cisco Nexus 5600:

- 1. Before configuring VXLAN-specific commands, the underlaymust be configured. An example configuration is included in the "Sample UnderlayConfiguration" Section.
- 2. Enable VXLAN features

```
feature nv overlay
feature vn-segment-vlan-based
feature interface-vlan
```

3. Map VXLAN VNIs to VLANs

```
vlan 100
vn-segment 8500
```

- 4. Create a loopback to be used as the source for the VTEP
 - interface loopback1

```
ip address 10.3.3.3/32
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
ip pim sparse-mode
```

5. Create the network virtualization endpoint (nve). This is your encapsulation and decapsulation point.

```
interface nve1
  no shutdown
  source-interface loopback1
member vni 8500 mcast-group 224.1.1.5
```

6. Create your Layer 3 SVI

interface Vlan100

- no shutdown
- ip address 100.1.100.1/24
- ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0

Cisco Nexus 5600 VXLAN Scale

For the 7.1(0)N1(1) release of NX-OS, the supported scale numbers are as follows:

Local VTEPs	1
VTEPs	1000
Host VTEPs	128
VNIs	650
DGroups	200

- Local VTEPs are the hardware based VTEPs on the Nexus 5600 Series Switches
- VTEPs refers to the number of remote VTEPs supported within the VXLAN Fabric
- Host VTEPs refers to the software based VTEPs on the hypervisor
- VNIs are the Segments in a VXLAN fabric
- DGroups (Destination Groups) are the multicast groups used for VXLAN traffic

Cisco Nexus 5600 Deployment Scenarios

The following deployment scenarios are based on VXLAN as multicast core-, flood-, and learn-based technology without a control plane.

Cisco Nexus 5600 as a Layer 2 VXLAN Gateway



The Cisco Nexus 5600 can act as a VXLAN VTEP, providing both encapsulation and de-capsulation of classical Ethernet and VXLAN packets. In this scenario a trunk port is connected from a virtualized host through a virtual switch and adds dot1q tags to the classical Ethernet frames. The Cisco Nexus 5600 then takes the tagged frames and if the dot1q tag matches a configured VLAN to VNI mapping, encapsulates it with a VXLAN header.

Since a physical switch is being used for VXLAN encapsulation, traffic between virtual and physical hosts is now supported, something not possible on a virtual switch.



Cisco Nexus 5600 as a Layer 3 VXLAN Gateway

In addition to providing encapsulation and decapsulation of Ethernet frames to and from VXLAN packets, the Cisco Nexus 5600 can act as a VXLAN router. In this mode, users can allow routing from VNI X to VNI Y. This allows communication between different VXLAN segments.

Hypervisor-Originated VXLAN



In certain use cases, the VTEP may reside on the virtual switch provided by the hypervisor or Cisco Nexus 1000V Switch. When this is the case, the Cisco Nexus 5600 can operate in two ways:

- Provide connectivity over VXLAN to physical hosts
- Act as a layer 3 VXLAN gateway

The Cisco Nexus 5600 cannot act a layer 2 VXLAN gateway between two virtual machines if they are using hypervisor-originated connections. In this scenario, the packets will be tunneled over the physical network and only be encapsulated and decapsulated at the hypervisor switches.

Underlay Requirements for VXLAN

The Cisco Nexus 5600 and any other switches participating in the VXLAN fabric with a 5600 switch have to meet the following requirements in the underlay for the overlay to function properly:

- Layer 3 routing must be configured (Open Shortest Path First [OSPF], Enhanced Interior Gateway Routing Protocol [EIGRP], Static Routing, etc.)
- PIM-BiDir Multicast (PIM-ASM is not supported for VXLAN)
- Encapsulation and decapsulation points must be layer 3-routed ports
- Layer 3-facing ports need to add at least 50 bytes to the MTU or servers MTU reduced by 50 bytes

VXLAN Designs

Following are some recommended design examples that illustrate how to deploy a VXLAN fabric with Cisco Nexus switches.

Centralized Gateway with Inter-VXLAN Routing in the Core/Aggregation

In this topology the leaf switches provide only layer 2 gateway VXLAN functionality and allow the spine/aggregation layer to provide the VXLAN routing capability. There are no VTEPs configured on the hypervisor-based switches. It is important to note that all default gateways reside on the core/aggregation switches, as distribution of gateways at the leaf layer cannot work without a control plane protocol.

Additionally, it is important to note that any traffic with the appropriate 802.1q tag into the leaf layer will be VXLANencapsulated. Cisco NX-OS Software also provides the MAC address of the host in both the leaf and core/aggregation layer in this topology, and will show the MAC as learned over the network virtualization endpoint (NVE) interface in the core/aggregation layer.

Figure 6 outlines many possible traffic flow scenarios that need to be covered:

- 1. Single and dual attached physical machines to hardware VTEPs
- 2. Single and dual attached virtual machines to hardware VTEPs
- 3. Single and dual attached physical machines to fabric extender (FEX)
- 4. Single and dual attached virtual machines to FEX

Note: Virtual PortChannel (vPC) and VXLAN are covered in the section titled, "VXLAN and vPC."





Single and Dual Attached Physical Machines to Hardware VTEPs

This is one of the most straightforward topologies that can be utilized in a VXLAN fabric. In this scenario, the physical machines are directly connected to a single or pair of Cisco Nexus 5600 switches performing VXLAN layer 2 encapsulation and decapsulation. When dual connecting, a traditional vPC is configured on the Cisco Nexus 5600 with the peer-link between the two physical switches.

- A classical Ethernet frame is forwarded from the physical machine to the Cisco Nexus 5600 Switch
- The frame is then encapsulated based on the VLAN-to-VNI mapping configured

Single and Dual Attached Virtual Machines to Hardware VTEPs

Connecting virtual machines into a VXLAN fabric is very common as it helps put any segment anywhere in the network, instead of limiting it based on physical pods. This scenario works exactly like the previous one except that a virtual switch will be instead connecting to the Cisco Nexus 5600. In this scenario, the following packet flow occurs:

- A classic Ethernet frame is forwarded from the virtual machine through the hypervisor switch
- The frame reaches the Cisco Nexus 5600 and is encapsulated based on the VLAN-to-VNI mapping configured

When using in a virtual environment, it is necessary that the hypervisor switch adds the 802.1q tag to the traffic before forwarding out of the physical ports. In this scenario, VXLAN is not running on the hypervisor switch.

Single and Dual Attached Physical Machines to FEX

To help manage the networking aspect of manymachines in onlya few central areas (the parent switches) a FEX can be utilized when there is a VXLAN Fabric. The FEX devices do not perform any VXLAN functionality and cannot read any VXLAN encapsulated traffic. Instead the FEX transmits only classical Ethernet frames to the parent switch where any VTEP discovery, MAC learning, encapsulation or decapsulation are to occur.

It is important to remember that there is no connection between two FEX switches when vPC is being utilized, but any peer-links are on the parent switches.

Single and Dual Attached Virtual Machines to FEX

As long as the hypervisor is still utilizing classical Ethernet you can single attach or dual attach FEX switches to help aggregate the traffic into the hardware VTEP. When using a FEX, only classical Ethernet frames are transmitted to and from the FEX. We still rely on the Cisco Nexus 5600 to do any VXLAN encapsulation and decapsulation. The traffic flow will be the same as the previous scenario, but will have to flow through the virtual switch hosted by the hypervisor to reach the FEX. Single and Dual Attached (Distributed Gateway) Hypervisor-Originated VXLAN to the Top of Rack (ToR)

In some existing VXLAN deployments, the hypervisor switch may be performing VXLAN functions (Figure 7). In those scenarios it is important to follow best practices. Two verified topologies that can be utilized include:

- Single attached hypervisor-originated VXLAN with layer 3 VXLAN routing at the ToR
- Distributed Gateway (dual attached) hypervisor-originated VXLAN with layer 3 VXLAN routing at the ToR

Figure 7. Topologies



In these two topologies, the hypervisor switch will do layer 2 VXLAN bridging of the frames coming to and from the virtual machines. After that, one of two scenarios can occur:

- If the destination is a physical device, the Cisco Nexus 5600 will decapsulate the traffic if in the same segment or it will route and then decapsulate if in a different segment.
- If the destination is another virtual machine in a separate segment, the Cisco Nexus 5600 will VXLAN -route that traffic.

Additionally, if the destination is another virtual machine in the same segment, the traffic will simply be forwarded over the Cisco Nexus 5600 to the destination hypervisor as if it were any other IP-based traffic.

Single Attached Hypervisor-Originated VXLAN to FEX

When utilizing a hypervisor-originated VXLAN packet with a FEX, it is important that both the hypervisor switch and FEX are only single attached (Figure 8). Dual attaching the FEX and the Cisco Nexus 5600 in this scenario is not supported.

Figure 8. Single Attached Hypervisor Switch and FEX



Hypervisor-Originated VXLAN with no VTEPs on Physical Switches

Having VXLAN functions performed only on the virtual switches is something that is a common occurrence for data centers. In this scenario the physical switches perform only layer 3 routing and virtual machines can only talk to each other over VXLAN if in the same segment. Because no VXLAN is configured on the physical switches, the normal Cisco Nexus best practices for each technology will apply. Features such as vPC and FEX will not have any additional restrictions in this scenario. A sample topology highlighting a potential traffic path over IP is shown below (Figure 9).



Figure 9. Hypervisor Initiated VXLAN with IP Routing Provided by Nexus 5600

Bud-Node VTEP

In certain topologies it maybe necessary that communication between two hosts will have to traverse a Cisco Nexus 5600 acting as a VTEP for VXLAN not connected to the host machine. This scenario is shown Figure 10.

Figure 10. Cisco Nexus Acting as a VTEP for VXLAN



In this scenario, all three switches are participating in the same VXLAN Fabric and have the same VNIs and multicast groups for the VNIs configured. The virtual machine behind VTEP1 is sourcing traffic that is destined for the virtual machine behind VTEP 3 and will have to pass through VTEP 2. Because of the tight integration of hardware and software that the Nexus 5600 provides, there are no limitations with this design and traffic will pass through VTEP 2 as expected.

VXLAN and Virtual PortChannel (vPC)

Virtual PortChannels (vPCs) can be utilized to dual attach a host to a pair of FEX devices or Cisco Nexus 5600s. This scenario is fully supported and recommended to add resiliency to the network. There are two scenarios when utilizing vPCs in your VXLAN environment to consider, illustrated in Figures 11 and 12.





In this scenario, the loopback interface that is acting as the source-interface for the VTEP adds a secondary IP address that will act as the anycast IP for this group. When a host is single attached (orphan port), the VXLAN-encapsulated traffic will be sent from the VTEP's primary address. If the host is dual attached through a vPC, then the anycast address will be used.

```
interface loopback1
ip address 10.1.1.1/32
ip address 11.11.11.12 secondary ← Anycast IP address
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
ip pim sparse-mode
```

In addition, the vPC Peer-Link needs to be the backup link in case the local VTEP losses connectivity. For this you will need to do the following:

 Create the VLAN for the VXLAN vPC Peer-Link. Note: This VLAN only exists on the vPC Peer-Link and needs to be removed from all other non-MCT interfaces. Because this VLAN is only locally significant, if there are multiple VPC peers in the VXLAN flood and learn Fabric, all VPC peers can use same VLAN configuration for the vPC Peer-Link.

vlan 99

2. Configure the SVI for the VXLAN vPC Peer-Link. Note that the protocol cost of the SVI must be less than compared to other vPC VLANs, but higher than the L3 interfaces.

```
interface vlan99
```

- no shutdown
- no ip redirects
- ip address 10.1.1.X/30
- ip ospf cost 10
- ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
- ip pim sparse-mode
- 3. Enable the VLAN as the VXLAN vPC Peer-Link

vpc nve peer-link-vlan 99

Figure 12. Layer 3 VXLAN Gatew ay and vPC



In the layer 3 gateway scenario (Figure 12), the SVIs must have a Hot Standby Router Protocol (HSRP) address group and IP address configured on both switches, in addition to the secondary IP address listed in the layer 2 gateway example in Figure 11. When a dual-attached host sources traffic that will be encapsulated, then the secondary address will be used. If the host is single attached, then the primary address will still be used.

```
interface vlan 100
ip address 100.100.100.5/24
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
ip pim sparse-mode
hsrp 100 ←HSRP configuration added
ip 100.100.100.1
```

Note: The peer-link SVI configuration is mandatory.

Monitoring VXLAN

The Cisco Nexus 5600 running as a VTEP in a VXLAN overlay will hold certain information on the segments as well as individual host machines subject to VXLAN encapsulation. There are command-line interface (CLI) outputs that can be utilized to help monitor the overlay.

Host MAC Address Management

To check the mac addresses learned in the overlay you can simply check the MAC address table maintained on the switch. Following is an example MAC address table on the Cisco Nexus 5600.

2000-1#	bii indo dddieobo odbie	6						
Legend:				locally attac	hed			
	* - primary entry, (G - Gateway	/ MAC, ((R) - Rout	ed MA	c, o -	Overlay N	IAC
	age - seconds since	last seen,	.+ - pri	mary entr	y usi	ng vPC	Peer-Lin}	C C
VLAN	MAC Address	Туре	age	Secure	NTFY	Ports	s/SWID.SSI	D.LID
	+	++-		-++	+			
* 100	002a.6a5c.0d44	dynamic	1000	F	F	ve1/10.	1.1.1	
* 100	0050.5687.3603	dynamic	990	F	F E	th1/48		

			learned	dovernve				
5600-1#	show mac address-tak	ble		1				
Legend:								
	* - primary entry,	G - Gatewa	y MAC, (R)	– Rout	ed	MAC, O -	Overla	y MAC
	age - seconds since	last seen	,+ - prima	ary enti	ry u	sing vPC	Peer-L:	ink
VLAN	MAC Address	Туре	age	Secure	NTF	Y Ports	s/SWID.S	SSID.LID
	+	++	{	¥+		-+		
* 100	002a.6a5c.0d44	dynamic	470	F	F	nve1/10.	1.1.1	
* 100	0050.5687.3603	dynamic	460	F	F	Eth1/48		

You will notice that there are two main types of ports seen in the outputs above. The first looks the same as a classical Ethernet example. These hosts are simply connected on an Ethernet or PortChannel interface and are local to the switch.

The second type includes remote hosts. These hosts are shown as being learned over an NVE interface as seen previously.

Lastly, it is possible to display which VNI a host has been encapsulated with. With the output shown below you can correlate the MAC address of a host to the vn segment attached.

Host IP Address Monitoring

If the Nexus 5600 is acting as a layer 3 VXLAN gateway, the ARP table will be populated just as it would in a classical Ethernet scenario. Below is an example output of the ARP table for a VXLAN layer 3 gateway on the Nexus 5600.

```
5600-1# sh ip arp
Flags: * - Adjacencies learnt on non-active FHRP router
    + - Adjacencies synced via CFSoE
    # - Adjacencies Throttled for Glean
    D - Static Adjacencies attached to down interface
IP ARP Table for context default
Total number of entries: 2
Address Age MAC Address Interface
40.40.40.1 00:12:59 002a.6a5c.0d44 Ethernet1/1
100.1.1.5 00:00:04 0050.5687.3603 Vlan100 ← HostIP learned over VXLAN
```

Monitoring VNIs and VTEPs

In addition to checking the MAC addresses learned locally as well as over the VXLAN overlay, you can also monitor the VNIs and VTEPs themselves. Following are three CLI outputs that can give more details into the VNIs configured.

5600-1# show nv vn	L			
Interface	VNI	Multicast-group	VNI State	Mode
nvel	8500	224.1.1.5	Up	DP

bf5600-1# sh nv pe	er peer-ip 10.1.1.	1
Interface	Peer-IP	Peer-State
nvel	10.1.1.1	Up

The first output shows which VNIs are configured, to which VTEP they are configured in, the multicast address associated to the VNI, and the state of the VNI.

The second output gives you details on the other VTEPs within the VXLAN overlay. Before any VTEP can appear in the list, traffic must first pass. This is because VXLAN is a data-plane-based protocol that relies on flooding to learn. Once the VTEPs are discovered, the statistics seen in the output will be displayed. If vPCs are in use then you might see the same VTEP listed twice as some hosts are single attached and some are dual attached.

Lastly the third output can give you a summary of the state of a particular NVE peer learned through the data plane of the VXLAN fabric.

Conclusion

Cisco Nexus 5600 switches provide hardware VTEP functionality for VXLAN, a Mac-in-UDP encaps ulation that extends layer 2 networks over layer 3 boundaries. This white paper explored the flood and learn version of VXLAN and some common design practices when utilizing Cisco Nexus 5600 switches as a VTEP.

Enhancements to this document will continue as new features for VXLAN are released.

For More Information

To learn more about Cisco Nexus 5600 switches visit <u>http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/switches/nexus-5000-series-switches/index.html</u>

Appendix A: Layer 2 VXLAN Gateway Configuration on Cisco Nexus 5600

Appendix A presents a simple Layer2 VXLAN Gateway Network example. This example uses two spine switches (N5672-1, N5672-2) and two leaf switches (N5672-3, N5672-4). The two leaf switches are Layer2 VXLAN Gateways. The two spine switches are Layer3 IP transport nodes enabled with OSPF and IP PIM BIDIR with static RP.



Configurations on switches:

Spine 1 (N5672-1)	Spine 2 (N5672-2)
N5672-1# sh run	N5672-2# sh run
!Command: show running-config !Time: Fri Sep 25 09:28:12 2015	!Command: show running-config !Time: Fri Sep 25 09:30:45 2015
version 7.2(0)N1(1) hostname N5672-1	version 7.2(0)N1(1) hostname N5672-2
feature telnet	feature telnet
feature ospf feature pim	feature ospf feature pim
leature llap	leature llap
\$1\$OSag.Z.D\$5LSt0JaoR3woHZest0pj61	\$1\$5nm6eH/B\$Xkl6Ka.ZUwvWgzQETZlLp0

ne1 (N5672-1)	Spine 2 (N5672-2)
role network-admin	role network-admin
no password strength-check	no password strength-check
ip domain-lookup	ip domain-lookup
ip pim rp-address 20.20.20.1 group-	
list 224.1.1.0/24 blair	ip pim rp-address 20.20.20.1 group-
ip pim ssm range 232.0.0.0/8	in nin com nonne 222 0 0 0/0
Vian i	ulan 1
vrf context management	
ip route $0.0.0/0$ 172.26.250.1	vrf context management
	ip route 0.0.0.0/0 172.26.250.1
interface Ethernet1/1	
	interface Ethernet1/1
<snip></snip>	
-	<snip></snip>
interface Ethernet1/48	
	interface Ethernet1/48
interface Ethernet2/1	
no switchport	interface Ethernet2/1
mtu 9216	no switchport
ip address 10.1.1.5/30	mtu 9216
ip ospf network point-to-point	ip address 10.2.1.5/30
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip ospf network point-to-point
ip pim sparse-mode	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
	ip pim sparse-mode
interface Ethernet2/2	
no switchport	interface Ethernet2/2
mtu 9216	no switchport
ip address 10.1.2.5/30	mtu 9216
ip ospf network point-to-point	ip address 10.2.2.5/30
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip ospf network point-to-point
ip pim sparse-mode	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
	ip pim sparse-mode
<snip></snip>	
	<snip></snip>
interface Ethernet2/6	
no switchport	interface Ethernet2/6
mtu 9216	no switchport
ip address 10.1.14.5/30	mtu 9216
ip ospi network point-to-point	ip address 10.1.14.6/30
ip router ospi i area 0.0.0.0	ip ospi network point-to-point
ip pim sparse-mode	ip router ospi 1 area 0.0.0.0
	ip pim sparse-mode

Spine 1 (N5672-1)	Spine 2 (N5672-2)
interface mgmt0	
vrf member management	interface mgmt0
ip address 172.26.250.41/24	vrf member management
	ip address 172.26.250.42/24
interface loopback0	
ip address 20.20.20.1/32	interface loopback0
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip address 20.20.20.2/32
ip pim sparse-mode	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
clock timezone PST -8 0	ip pim sparse-mode
line console	clock timezone PST -8 0
exec-timeout 0	line console
line vty	exec-timeout 0
boot kickstart bootflash:/n6000-uk9-	line vty
kickstart.7.2.0.N1.1.bin	boot kickstart bootflash:/n6000-uk9-
boot system bootflash:/n6000-	kickstart.7.2.0.N1.1.bin
uk9.7.2.0.N1.1.bin	boot system bootflash:/n6000-
router ospf 1	uk9.7.2.0.N1.1.bin
router-id 20.20.20.1	router ospf 1
	router-id 20.20.20.2

VTEP LEAF1 (N5672-3)	VTEP LEAF2 (N5672-4)
N5672-3# sh run	N5672-4# sh run
!Command: show running-config	!Command: show running-config
!Time: Fri Sep 25 09:31:33 2015	!Time: Fri Sep 25 09:32:13 2015
version 7.2(0)N1(1)	version 7.2(0)N1(1)
hostname N5672-3	hostname N5672-4
feature telnet	feature telnet
feature ospf	feature ospf
feature pim	feature pim
feature lldp	feature lldp
feature nv overlay	feature nv overlay
feature vn-segment-vlan-based	feature vn-segment-vlan-based
username admin password 5	username admin password 5
role network-admin	role network-admin
no password strength-check	no password strength-check
ip domain-lookup	ip domain-lookup
hardware ethernet store-and-fwd- switching	hardware ethernet store-and-fwd- switching

VTEP LEAF1 (N5672-3)	VTEP LEAF2 (N5672-4)
ip pim rp-address 20.20.20.1 group- list 224.1.1.0/24 bidir	ip pim rp-address 20.20.20.1 group- list 224.1.1.0/24 bidir
ip pim ssm range 232.0.0.0/8	ip pim ssm range 232.0.0.0/8
vlan 1	vlan 1
vlan 10	vlan 10
vn-segment 8010	vn-segment 8010
vlan 11	vlan 11
vn-segment 8011	vn-segment 8011
vlan 12	vlan 12
vn-segment 8012	vn-segment 8012
vrf context management	vrf context management
ip route 0.0.0.0/0 172.26.250.1	ip route 0.0.0/0 172.26.250.1
interface nvel	interface nvel
no shutdown	no shutdown
source-interface loopback0	source-interface loopback0
<pre>member vni 8010 mcast-group 224.1.1.10</pre>	member vni 8010 mcast-group 224.1.1.10
<pre>member vni 8011 mcast-group 224.1.1.11</pre>	member vni 8011 mcast-group 224.1.1.11
member vni 8012 mcast-group 224.1.1.12	member vni 8012 mcast-group 224.1.1.12
interface Ethernet1/1	interface Ethernet1/1
<snip></snip>	<snip></snip>
interface Ethernet1/10	interface Ethernet1/10
description "To IXIA C3P13"	description "To IXIA C3P6"
switchport mode trunk	switchport mode trunk
<snip></snip>	<snip></snip>
interface Ethernet1/48	interface Ethernet1/48
interface Ethernet2/1	interface Ethernet2/1
no switchport	no switchport
mtu 9216	mtu 9216
ip address 10.1.1.6/30	ip address 10.1.2.6/30
ip ospf network point-to-point	ip ospf network point-to-point
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
ip pim sparse-mode	ip pim sparse-mode

```
VTEP LEAF1 (N5672-3)
                                          VTEP LEAF2 (N5672-4)
   interface Ethernet2/2
                                             interface Ethernet2/2
     no switchport
                                               no switchport
    mtu 9216
                                               mtu 9216
     ip address 10.2.1.6/30
                                               ip address 10.2.2.6/30
    ip ospf network point-to-point
                                               ip ospf network point-to-point
    ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
                                               ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
     ip pim sparse-mode
                                               ip pim sparse-mode
   <snip>
                                             <snip>
   interface Ethernet2/6
                                             interface Ethernet2/6
  interface mgmt0
                                             interface mgmt0
    vrf member management
                                               vrf member management
     ip address 172.26.250.43/24
                                               ip address 172.26.250.44/24
   interface loopback0
                                             interface loopback0
     ip address 20.20.20.3/32
                                               ip address 20.20.20.4/32
    ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
                                               ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
     ip pim sparse-mode
                                               ip pim sparse-mode
  clock timezone PST -8 0
                                             clock timezone PST -8 0
  line console
                                             line console
     exec-timeout 0
                                               exec-timeout 0
  line vty
                                             line vty
  boot kickstart bootflash:/n6000-uk9-
                                             boot kickstart bootflash:/n6000-uk9-
  kickstart.7.2.0.N1.1.bin
                                             kickstart.7.2.0.N1.1.bin
  boot system bootflash:/n6000-
                                             boot system bootflash:/n6000-
  uk9.7.2.0.N1.1.bin
                                             uk9.7.2.0.N1.1.bin
   router ospf 1
                                             router ospf 1
     router-id 20.20.20.3
                                               router-id 20.20.20.4
```

Appendix B: Centralized Layer 3 VXLAN Gateway Configuration on Nexus 5600

In VXLAN flood and learn mode, the recommended Layer 3 gateway design would be a pair of switches in VPC to be the Layer 3 centralized gateway with FHRP (First Hop Redundancy Protocol) running on the SVIs. The pair of VPC switches can be a pair of spine switches or a dedicated pair of leaf switches.

Appendix B presents a simple Centralized Layer 3 VXLAN Gateway Configuration example with VPC on spine switches. This example uses two spine switches (N5672-1, N5672-2) and two leaf switches (N5672-3, N5672-4). The two leaf switches (N5672-3, N5672-4) are Layer 2 VXLAN Gateways. The two Spine switches are configured with VPC with HSRP as Layer 3 VXLAN Gateway. All VXLAN-to-VXLAN Routing and VXLAN-to-VLAN Routing are done by the pair of VPC spine switches. Layer 3 Transport Underlay network is enabled with OSPF and PIM BIDIR with Static Phantom RP for RP redundancy.



Configurations on switches:

Spine 1 (N5672-1)	Spine 2 (N5672-2)
N5672-1# sh run	N5672-2# sh run
version 7.2(0)N1(1)	version 7.2(0)N1(1)
hostname N5672-1	hostname N5672-2
feature telnet	feature telnet
cfs eth distribute	cfs eth distribute
feature ospf	feature ospf

Spine 1 (N5672-1)	Spine 2 (N5672-2)
feature pim	feature pim
feature interface-vlan	feature interface-vlan
feature hsrp	feature hsrp
feature lacp	feature lacp
feature vpc	feature vpc
feature lldp	feature lldp
feature nv overlay	feature nv overlay
feature vn-segment-vlan-based	feature vn-segment-vlan-based
username admin password 5 \$1\$OSag.Z.D\$5LStOJaoR3woHZest0pj61 role network-admin	username admin password 5 \$1\$5nm6eH/B\$Xkl6Ka.ZUwvWgzQETZlLp0 role network-admin
no password strength-check	no password strength-check
ip domain-lookup	ip domain-lookup
hardware ethernet store-and-fwd- switching	hardware ethernet store-and-fwd- switching
ip pim rp-address 20.20.21.2 group-list 224.1.1.0/24 bidir	ip pim rp-address 20.20.21.2 group-list 224.1.1.0/24 bidir
ip pim ssm range 232.0.0.0/8	ip pim ssm range 232.0.0.0/8
vlan 1	vlan 1
vlan 10	vlan 10
vn-segment 8010	vn-segment 8010
vlan 11	vlan 11
vn-segment 8011	vn-segment 8011
vlan 12	vlan 12
vn-segment 8012	vn-segment 8012
vlan 99	vlan 99
vrf context management	vrf context management
ip route 0.0.0.0/0 172.26.250.1	ip route 0.0.0.0/0 172.26.250.1
vpc domain 50	vpc domain 50
role priority 100	role priority 110
peer-keepalive destination 172.26.250.42	peer-keepalive destination 172.26.250.41
delay restore 150	delay restore 150
interface Vlan1	interface Vlan1
interface Vlan10	interface Vlan10
no shutdown	no shutdown
ip address 30.1.10.2/24	ip address 30.1.10.3/24
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
hsrp 10	hsrp 10
priority 110	ip 30.1.10.1

Spine 1 (N5672-1)	Spine 2 (N5672-2)
ip 30.1.10.1	
interface Vlan11	interface Vlan11
no shutdown	no shutdown
ip address 30.1.11.2/24	ip address 30.1.11.3/24
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
hsrp 11	hsrp 11
priority 110	ip 30.1.11.1
ip 30.1.11.1	
interface Vlan12	interface Vlan12
no shutdown	no shutdown
ip address 30.1.12.2/24	ip address 30.1.12.3/24
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
hsrp 12	hsrp 12
priority 110	ip 30.1.12.1
ip 30.1.12.1	
interface Vlan99	interface Vlan99
no shutdown	no shutdown
no ip redirects	no ip redirects
ip address 99.1.1.1/24	ip address 99.1.1.2/24
ip ospf cost 10	ip ospf cost 10
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
ip pim sparse-mode	ip pim sparse-mode
interface port-channel3	interface port-channel3
switchport mode trunk	switchport mode trunk
spanning-tree port type network	spanning-tree port type network
speed 40000	speed 40000
vpc peer-link	vpc peer-link
interface nvel	interface nvel
no shutdown	no shutdown
source-interface loopback0	source-interface loopback0
member vni 8010 mcast-group 224.1.1.10	<pre>member vni 8010 mcast-group 224.1.1.10</pre>
<pre>member vni 8011 mcast-group 224.1.1.11</pre>	<pre>member vni 8011 mcast-group 224.1.1.11</pre>
member vni 8012 mcast-group 224.1.1.12	member vni 8012 mcast-group 224.1.1.12
interface Ethernet1/1	interface Ethernet1/1

ine 1 (N5672-1)	Spine 2 (N5672-2)
<snip></snip>	<snip></snip>
interface Ethernet1/48	interface Ethernet1/48
interface Ethernet2/1	interface Ethernet2/1
no switchport	no switchport
mtu 9216	mtu 9216
ip address 10.1.1.5/30	ip address 10.2.1.5/30
ip ospf network point-to-point	ip ospf network point-to-point
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
ip pim sparse-mode	ip pim sparse-mode
interface Ethernet2/2	interface Ethernet2/2
no switchport	no switchport
mtu 9216	mtu 9216
ip address 10.1.2.5/30	ip address 10.2.2.5/30
ip ospf network point-to-point	ip ospf network point-to-point
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
ip pim sparse-mode	ip pim sparse-mode
<snip></snip>	<snip></snip>
interface Ethernet2/6	interface Ethernet2/6
switchport mode trunk	switchport mode trunk
channel-group 3 mode active	channel-group 3 mode active
interface mgmt0	interface mgmt0
vrf member management	vrf member management
ip address 172.26.250.41/24	ip address 172.26.250.42/24
interface loopback0	interface loopback0
ip address 20.20.20.1/32	ip address 20.20.20.2/32
ip address 90.90.90.1/32 secondary	ip address 90.90.90.1/32 secondar
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
ip pim sparse-mode	ip pim sparse-mode
interface loopback1	interface loopback1
description "Phantom RP candidate"	description "Phantom RP candidate
ip address 20.20.21.1/30	ip address 20.20.21.1/29
ip ospf network point-to-point	ip ospf network point-to-point
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
ip pim sparse-mode	ip pim sparse-mode
clock timezone PST -8 0	clock timezone PST -8 0

Spine 1 (N5672-1)	Spine 2 (N5672-2)
line console	line console
exec-timeout 0	exec-timeout 0
line vty	line vty
boot kickstart bootflash:/n6000-uk9- kickstart.7.2.0.N1.1.bin	boot kickstart bootflash:/n6000-uk9- kickstart.7.2.0.N1.1.bin
boot system bootflash:/n6000- uk9.7.2.0.N1.1.bin	boot system bootflash:/n6000- uk9.7.2.0.N1.1.bin
router ospf 1	router ospf 1
router-id 20.20.20.1	router-id 20.20.20.2
vpc nve peer-link-vlan 99	vpc nve peer-link-vlan 99

VTEP LEAF1 (N5672-3)	VTEP LEAF2 (N5672-4)
N5672-3# sh run	N5672-4# sh run
version 7.2(0)N1(1)	version 7.2(0)N1(1)
hostname N5672-3	hostname N5672-4
feature telnet	feature telnet
feature ospf	feature ospf
feature pim	feature pim
feature lldp	feature lldp
feature nv overlay	feature nv overlay
feature vn-segment-vlan-based	feature vn-segment-vlan-based
username admin password 5 \$1\$vWhHp2ep\$UYGvVYR9nlrrK/Ir0kjyC1 role network-admin	username admin password 5 \$1\$19tJbiJX\$LqaZ8puja7VPQGFGbT/9N1 role network-admin
no password strength-check	no password strength-check
ip domain-lookup	ip domain-lookup
hardware ethernet store-and-fwd- switching	hardware ethernet store-and-fwd- switching
ip pim rp-address 20.20.21.2 group-list 224.1.1.0/24 bidir	ip pim rp-address 20.20.21.2 group-list 224.1.1.0/24 bidir
ip pim ssm range 232.0.0.0/8	ip pim ssm range 232.0.0.0/8
vlan 1	vlan 1
vlan 10	vlan 10
vn-segment 8010	vn-segment 8010
vlan 11	vlan 11
vn-segment 8011	vn-segment 8011
vlan 12	vlan 12
vn-segment 8012	vn-segment 8012

```
VTEP LEAF1 (N5672-3)
                                            VTEP LEAF2 (N5672-4)
                                               vrf context management
  vrf context management
     ip route 0.0.0.0/0 172.26.250.1
                                                 ip route 0.0.0.0/0 172.26.250.1
  interface nvel
                                               interface nvel
    no shutdown
                                                 no shutdown
    source-interface loopback0
                                                 source-interface loopback0
    member vni 8010 mcast-group
                                                 member vni 8010 mcast-group
  224.1.1.10
                                               224.1.1.10
    member vni 8011 mcast-group
                                                 member vni 8011 mcast-group
  224.1.1.11
                                               224.1.1.11
     member vni 8012 mcast-group
                                                 member vni 8012 mcast-group
   224.1.1.12
                                               224.1.1.12
  interface Ethernet1/1
                                               interface Ethernet1/1
   <snip>
                                               <snip>
  interface Ethernet1/10
                                               interface Ethernet1/10
     description "To IXIA C3P13"
                                                 description "To IXIA C3P6"
     switchport mode trunk
                                                 switchport mode trunk
   <snip>
                                               <snip>
   interface Ethernet1/48
                                               interface Ethernet1/48
   interface Ethernet2/1
                                               interface Ethernet2/1
     no switchport
                                                 no switchport
                                                 mtu 9216
    mtu 9216
     ip address 10.1.1.6/30
                                                 ip address 10.1.2.6/30
     ip ospf network point-to-point
                                                 ip ospf network point-to-point
     ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
                                                 ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
     ip pim sparse-mode
                                                 ip pim sparse-mode
   interface Ethernet2/2
                                               interface Ethernet2/2
     no switchport
                                                 no switchport
    mtu 9216
                                                 mtu 9216
     ip address 10.2.1.6/30
                                                 ip address 10.2.2.6/30
     ip ospf network point-to-point
                                                 ip ospf network point-to-point
     ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
                                                 ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
     ip pim sparse-mode
                                                 ip pim sparse-mode
   <snip>
                                               <snip>
                                               interface Ethernet2/6
   interface Ethernet2/6
```

VTEP LEAF1 (N5672-3)	VTEP LEAF2 (N5672-4)
interface mgmt0	interface mgmt0
vrf member management	vrf member management
ip address 172.26.250.43/24	ip address 172.26.250.44/24
interface loopback0	interface loopback0
ip address 20.20.20.3/32	ip address 20.20.20.4/32
ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0	ip router ospf 1 area 0.0.0.0
ip pim sparse-mode	ip pim sparse-mode
clock timezone PST -8 0	clock timezone PST -8 0
line console	line console
exec-timeout 0	exec-timeout 0
line vty	line vty
boot kickstart bootflash:/n6000-uk9- kickstart.7.2.0.N1.1.bin	boot kickstart bootflash:/n6000-uk9- kickstart.7.2.0.N1.1.bin
boot system bootflash:/n6000- uk9.7.2.0.N1.1.bin	boot system bootflash:/n6000- uk9.7.2.0.N1.1.bin
router ospf 1	router ospf 1
router-id 20.20.20.3	router-id 20.20.20.4



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