

ISIS for ISPs



ISP Training Workshops

Configuring ISIS in Cisco IOS

❑ Starting ISIS in Cisco IOS

`router isis [name]`

- Where the optional name can specify the name of the ISIS process

❑ ISIS name is unique to the router

- Gives possibility of running multiple instances of ISIS on one router
- ISIS process name is not passed between routers in an AS
- Some ISPs configure the ISIS name to be the same as their BGP Autonomous System Number
 - ❑ e.g. `router isis as64510`

Configuring ISIS in Cisco IOS

- ❑ Once ISIS started, other required configuration under the ISIS process includes:
 - Capture adjacency changes in the system log
`log-adjacency-changes`
 - Set metric-style to wide – modern & scalable
`metric-style wide`
 - Set IS type to level 2 only (router-wide configuration)
`is-type level-2-only`
 - Set NET address
`net 49.0001.<loopback>.00`

Adding interfaces to ISIS

- ❑ To activate ISIS on an interface:

```
interface HSSI 4/0  
  ip router isis isp-bb
```

- ❑ To disable ISIS on an interface:

```
router isis isp-bb  
  passive-interface GigabitEthernet 0/0
```

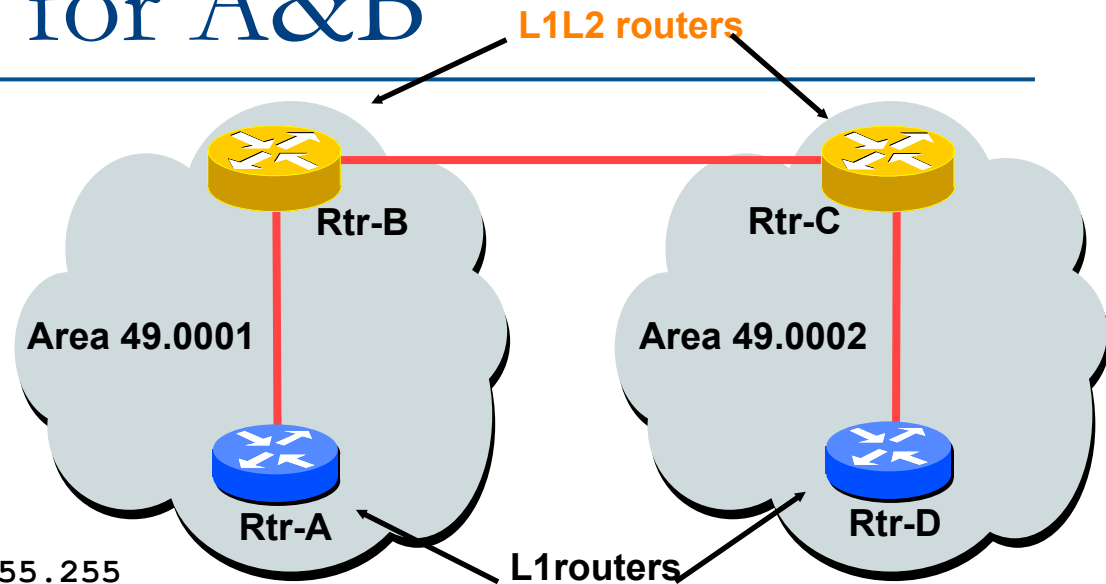
- Disables CLNS on that interface
 - **Puts the interface subnet address into the LSDB**
 - No need for “redistribute connected”
- ❑ No ISIS configuration for an interface
 - No CLNS run on interface, no interface subnet in the LSDB

Adding interfaces to ISIS

- ❑ **Scaling ISIS: passive-interface default**
 - Disables ISIS processing on all interfaces apart from those marked as no-passive
 - Places all IP addresses of all connected interfaces into ISIS
 - ❑ NB. This is NOT the same behaviour as for OSPF
 - There must be at least one non-passive interface:

```
router isis isp-bb
  passive-interface default
  no passive-interface GigabitEthernet 0/0
interface GigabitEthernet 0/0
  ip router isis isp-bb
```

Configuration for A&B



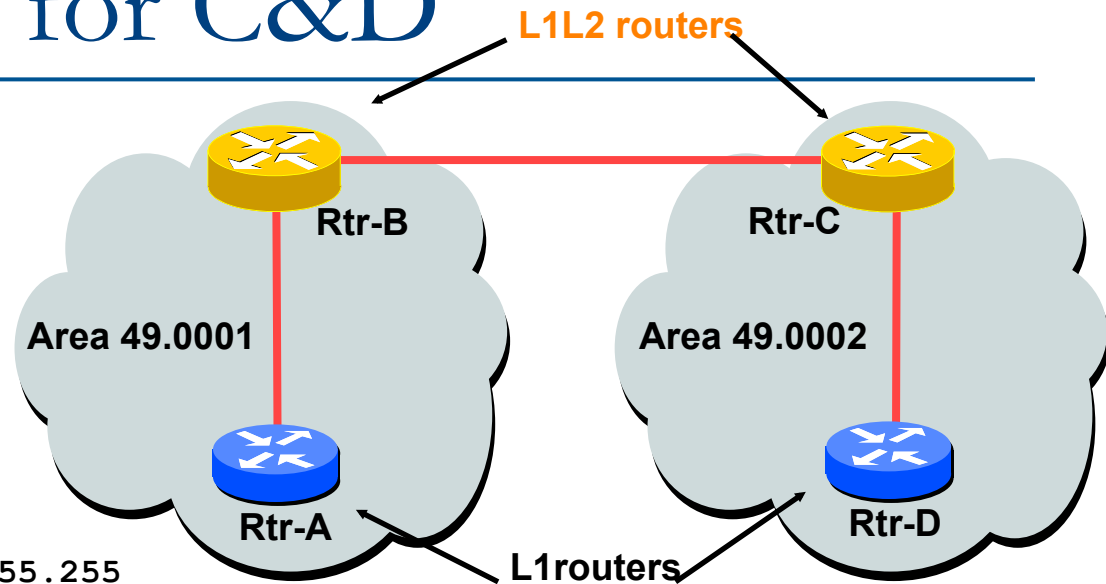
Router-B

```
interface Loopback0
 ip address 192.168.1.1 255.255.255.255
!
interface POS2/0/0
 ip address 192.168.222.1 255.255.255.0
 ip router isis
 isis circuit-type level-2
!
Interface FastEthernet4/0/0
 ip address 192.168.120.10 255.255.255.0
 ip router isis
 isis circuit-type level-1
!
router isis
 passive-interface Loopback0
 net 49.0001.1921.6800.1001.00
```

Router-A

```
interface Loopback0
 ip address 192.168.1.5 255.255.255.255
!
interface FastEthernet0/0
 ip address 192.168.120.5 255.255.255.0
 ip router isis
!
router isis
 is-type level-1
 passive-interface Loopback0
 net 49.0001.1921.6800.1005.00
```

Configuration for C&D



Router-C

```
interface Loopback0
 ip address 192.168.2.2 255.255.255.255
!
interface POS1/0/0
 ip address 192.168.222.2 255.255.255.0
 ip router isis
 isis circuit-type level-2
!
interface Fddi3/0
 ip address 192.168.111.2 255.255.255.0
 ip router isis
 isis circuit-type level-1
!
router isis
 passive-interface Loopback0
 net 49.0002.1921.6800.2002.00
```

Router-D

```
interface Loopback0
 ip address 192.168.2.4 255.255.255.255
!
interface Fddi6/0
 ip address 192.168.111.4 255.255.255.0
 ip router isis
!
router isis
 is-type level-1
 passive-interface Loopback0
 net 49.0002.1921.6800.2004.00
```

Status Commands in ISIS

❑ **show clns**

- Shows the global CLNS status as seen on the router, e.g.

```
Rtr-B>show clns
```

```
Global CLNS Information:
```

```
  2 Interfaces Enabled for CLNS
```

```
NET: 49.0001.1921.6800.1001.00
```

```
Configuration Timer: 60, Default Holding Timer: 300,  
Packet Lifetime 64
```

```
ERPDU's requested on locally generated packets
```

```
Intermediate system operation enabled (forwarding  
allowed)
```

```
IS-IS level-1-2 Router:
```

```
  Routing for Area: 49.0001
```


Status Commands in ISIS

- ❑ show clns neighbors

- Shows the neighbour adjacencies as seen by the router:

```
Rtr-B> show clns neighbors
```

System Id	SNPA	Interface	State	Holdtime	Type	Protocol
1921.6800.2002	*PPP*	PO2/0/0	Up	29	L2	IS-IS
1921.6800.1005	00e0.1492.2c00	Fa4/0/0	Up	9	L1	IS-IS

- More recent IOSes replace system ID with router hostname – much easier troubleshooting

Status Commands in ISIS

- ❑ show clns interface
 - Shows the CLNS status on a router interface:

```
Rtr-B> show clns interface POS2/0/0
POS2/0/0 is up, line protocol is up
  Checksums enabled, MTU 4470, Encapsulation PPP
  ERPDUs enabled, min. interval 10 msec.
  RDPDUs enabled, min. interval 100 msec., Addr Mask enabled
Congestion Experienced bit set at 4 packets
DEC compatibility mode OFF for this interface
Next ESH/ISH in 47 seconds
Routing Protocol: IS-IS
  Circuit Type: level-1-2
  Interface number 0x0, local circuit ID 0x100
  Level-1 Metric: 10, Priority: 64, Circuit ID: 1921.6800.2002.00
  Number of active level-1 adjacencies: 0
  Level-2 Metric: 10, Priority: 64, Circuit ID: 1921.6800.1001.00
  Number of active level-2 adjacencies: 1
  Next IS-IS Hello in 2 seconds
```

Status Commands in ISIS

- ❑ `show clns protocol`

- Displays the status of the CLNS protocol on the router:

```
Rtr-B> show clns protocol
```

```
IS-IS Router: <Null Tag>
```

```
System Id: 1921.6800.1001.00   IS-Type: level-1-2
```

```
Manual area address(es):
```

```
49.0001
```

```
Routing for area address(es):
```

```
49.0001
```

```
Interfaces supported by IS-IS:
```

```
FastEthernet4/0/0 - IP
```

```
POS2/0/0 - IP
```

```
Redistributing:
```

```
static
```

```
Distance: 110
```

Other status commands

- ❑ **show clns traffic**
 - Shows CLNS traffic statistics and activity for the network
- ❑ **show isis database**
 - Shows the ISIS link state database
 - i.e. the “routing table”

Network Design Issues

- ❑ As in all IP network designs, the key issue is the addressing lay-out
- ❑ ISIS supports a large number of routers in a single area
- ❑ When using areas, use summary-addresses
- ❑ >400 routers in the backbone is quite doable

Network Design Issues

- ❑ Possible link cost
 - Default on all interface is 10
 - (Compare with OSPF which set cost according to link bandwidth)
 - Manually configured according to routing strategy
- ❑ Summary address cost
 - Equal to the best more specific cost
 - Plus cost to reach neighbour of best specific
- ❑ Backbone has to be contiguous
 - Ensure continuity by redundancy
- ❑ Area partitioning
 - Design so that backbone can **NOT** be partitioned

Scaling Issues

- Areas vs. single area
 - Use areas where
 - sub-optimal routing is not an issue
 - areas with one single exit point
- Start with L2-only everywhere is a good choice
 - Future implementation of level-1 areas will be easier
 - Backbone continuity is ensured from start

Narrow to Wide Metrics Transition

- ❑ When migrating from narrow to wide metrics, care is required
 - Narrow and wide metrics are NOT compatible with each other
 - Migration is a two stage process, using the “transition” keyword
- ❑ Networks using narrow metrics should first configure transition metrics across all routers:
- ❑ Once the whole network is changed to transition support, the metric style can be changed to wide:

```
router isis isp  
metric-style transition
```

```
router isis isp  
metric-style wide
```


ISP best common practices

- ❑ NET address construction
 - Area and loopback address
- ❑ L2
 - Configure globally in ISIS process
 - L1-L2 and L1 can be used later for scaling large networks
- ❑ Wide metrics
 - Narrow metrics are too limiting
- ❑ Deploying IPv6 in addition to IPv4
 - **Recommendation:** use single-topology (IOS default) unless an incremental roll-out of IPv6 is intended
 - Multi-topology is useful for an incremental roll-out, and if there should be future differences in topology between IPv4 and IPv6

Advanced ISIS Configuration



(for experts only)

Developed by Mark Tinka &
Philip Smith

Purging the RIB on link failure

- ❑ For routing protocols that are capable of responding to link failures, IOS allows such routing protocols to quickly and more efficiently delete associated routes from the RIB when a link, and the interface is removed from the routing table
- ❑ Without this command, the "less efficient" RIB process is used to delete the associated next-hop routes of the failed interface, by default
 - If this process has to work through a very large routing table, it can use up a number of CPU cycles and potentially increase convergence time.

```
ip routing protocol purge interface
```

ISIS neighbour authentication

- ❑ Create key chains to be used for HMAC-MD5 authentication for both Level-1 and Level-2

```
key chain isis-level1
```

```
key 1
```

```
key-string xxxxx
```

```
key chain isis-level2
```

```
key 1
```

```
key-string xxxxx
```

Setting up Loopback Interface

- ❑ Create the Loopback interface/Router-ID
 - It will NOT have IS-IS running on it because it is not a transit interface
 - Disabling IS-IS on it, while announcing the IP prefixes into IS-IS, allows the IS-IS domain to scale because LSP/Hello packets are not unnecessarily generated for the Loopback interface
 - An IS-IS metric will NOT be set, which will default the Loopback interface's metric to zero (0).

```
interface loopback0
  ip address 192.168.0.1 255.255.255.255
  ipv6 address 2001:db8::192:168:0:1/128
```

Level-1 Interface Configuration

- ❑ Configure addresses and enable ISIS for IPv4 and IPv6

```
interface gigabitethernet0/1
  ip address 192.168.1.1 255.255.255.192
  ipv6 address 2001:db8:192:168:1:1/112
  !
  ip router isis 1
  ipv6 router isis 1
```

- ❑ Ensure this interfaces runs at Level-1
- ```
isis circuit-type level-1
```

# Level-1 Interface: Metrics & Auth

---

- ❑ Set the costs for IPv4 and IPv6

```
interface gigabitethernet0/1
 isis metric 400 level-1
 isis ipv6 metric 400 level-1
```

- ❑ Enable HMAC-MD5 for level-1

```
isis authentication mode md5 level-1
```

- ❑ Associate the key-chain defined earlier

```
isis authentication key-chain isis-level1 level-1
```

# Level-1 Interface: DIS and BFD

---

- ❑ Set this IS (router) to be the DIS in this Level-1 area
  - A DIS of 126 (higher than the default of 64) configured on another IS in this area sets it up as the backup DIS

```
interface gigabitethernet0/1
 isis priority 127 level-1
```

- ❑ Enable BFD for fast failure detection
  - BFD helps reduce the convergence times of IS-IS because link failures will be signalled much quicker

```
interface gigabitethernet0/1
 bfd interval 250 min_rx 250 multiplier 3
```



# Level-2 interface

---

- ❑ This interface is used for a trunk link to another PoP forming part of your network-wide backbone
  - As such it will be a Level-2 interface, making this router a Level-1/Level-2 IS.
  - Metric and authentication are all configured for Level-2

```
interface gigabitethernet0/2
```

```
ip address 192.168.2.1 255.255.255.252
```

```
ipv6 address 2001:db8:192:168:2:1:/126
```

```
ip router isis 1
```

```
ipv6 router isis 1
```

```
isis circuit-type level-2-only
```

```
isis metric 400 level-2
```

```
isis ipv6 metric 400 level-2
```

```
isis authentication mode md5 level-2
```

```
isis authentication key-chain isis-level2 level-2
```

# Level 2 interface: more details

---

- ❑ To make this IS-IS BCP more interesting, we will assume this trunk link is a broadcast multi-access link, i.e., Ethernet.
- ❑ As this is an Ethernet interface, IS-IS will attempt to elect a DIS when it forms an adjacency
  - Because it is running as a point-to-point WAN link, with only 2 IS's on the wire, configuring IS-IS to operate in "point-to-point mode" scales the protocol by reducing the link failure detection times
  - Point-to-point mode improves convergence times on Ethernet networks because it:
    - ❑ Prevents the election of a DIS on the wire,
    - ❑ Prevents the flooding process from using CSNP's for database synchronization
    - ❑ Simplifies the SPF computations and reduces the IS's memory footprint due to a smaller topology database.

```
int gi0/2
```

```
isis network point-to-point
```

# ISIS Process

---

- ❑ Configure parameters specific to the IS-IS routing protocol
  - This covers both IPv4 and IPv6, as IS-IS supports both IP protocols in the same implementation

```
router isis as100
```

# ISIS Process

---

- ❑ Create an NET for the ISIS process:
  - This is made up of:
    - ❑ a private AFI (49)
    - ❑ an **area** part
    - ❑ a **System ID** (taken from the padded Loopback interface IP address), and
    - ❑ an N-SEL of zero (0)

**net 49.0001.1921.6800.0001.00**

# ISIS Process

---

- ❑ Under the ISIS process enable HMAC-MD5 authentication:

```
authentication mode md5
```

```
authentication key-chain isis-level1 level-1
```

```
authentication key-chain isis-level2 level-2
```

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Enable iSPF (incremental SPF).
  - This, in the long run, reduces CPU demand because SPF calculations are run only on the affected changes in the SPT.
  - As this is a Level-1/Level-2 router, enable iSPF at both levels 60 seconds after the command has been entered into the configuration.
  - Note that IOS only supports iSPF for IPv4.

```
ispf level-1-2 60
```

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Enable wide/extended metric support for IS-IS.
  - IOS, by default, supports narrow metrics, which means you can define cost values between 1-63. This is not scalable.
  - To solve this problem, enable wide metrics, which allows you to define cost values between 1-16777214.

**metric-style wide**

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Increase ISIS default metric
  - Default value is 10
  - All interfaces in both L1 and L2 have this value
  - Not useful if configured value is “accidentally” removed - a low priority interface could end up taking full load by mistake
  - Configure a “very large” value as default

```
metric 100000
```



# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Disable IIH padding
  - On high speed links, it may strain huge buffers
  - On low speed links, it may waste bandwidth and affect other time sensitive applications, e.g., voice.
  - Disabling IIH padding is safe because IOS will still pad the first 5 IIH's to the full MTU to aid in the discovery of MTU mismatches

**no hello padding**

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Allow the Loopback interface IP address to be carried within IS-IS, while preventing it from being considered in the flooding process.

```
passive-interface Loopback0
```

- ❑ Log changes in the state of the adjacencies.

```
log-adjacency-changes
```

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ▣ Tell the IS to ignore LSP's with an incorrect data-link checksum, rather than purge them
  - Purging LSP's with a bad checksum causes the initiating IS to regenerate that LSP, which could overload the IS if perpetuated in a cycle
  - So rather than purge them, ignore them.

**ignore-lsp-errors**

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Reduce the amount of control traffic, conserving CPU usage for generation and refreshing of LSP's.
  - Do this by increasing the LSP lifetime to its limits.

```
max-lsp-lifetime 65535
```

- ❑ Reduce the frequency of periodic LSP flooding of the topology, which reduces link utilization
  - This is safe because there other mechanisms to guard against persistence of corrupted LSP's in the LSDB.

```
lsp-refresh-interval 65000
```

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Customize IS-IS throttling of SPF calculations.
  - Good for when you also use BFD for IS-IS.
  - These are recommended values for fast convergence.

```
spf-interval 5 1 20
```

- ❑ Customize IS-IS throttling of LSP generation.
  - These are recommended values for fast convergence.

```
lsp-gen-interval 5 1 20
```

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Customize IS-IS throttling of PRC calculations.
  - PRC calculates routes without performing a full SFP calculation.
  - This is done when a change is signaled by another IS, but without a corresponding change in the basic network topology, e.g., the need to reinstall a route in the IS-IS RIB.
  - These are recommended values for fast convergence.

```
prc-interval 5 1 20
```

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Enable IS-IS fast-flooding of LSP's.
  - This tells the IS to always flood the LSP that triggered an SPF before the router actually runs the SPF computation.
  - This command used to be 'ip fast-convergence' and has since been replaced from IOS 12.3(7)T.
  - Below, we shall tell the IS to flood the first 10 LSP's which invoke the SPF before the SPF computation is started

**fast-flood 10**

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Enable IS-IS IETF Graceful Restart.
  - This ensures an IS going through a control plane switchover continues to forward traffic as if nothing happened
  - Software and platform support is limited, so check whether your particular platform/code supports this
  - Also, deploy only if it's necessary.

**nsf ietf**



# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Enable BFD support for IS-IS.
  - With BFD running on the interface, a failure of the link would signal IS-IS immediately
  - IS-IS will then converge accordingly.

**bfd all-interfaces**

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Tell IS-IS to ignore the attached bit
  - The Attached bit is set when an L1/L2 IS learns L1 routes from other L1 routers in the same area
  - The Attached bit causes the installation of an IS-IS-learned default route in the IS-IS RIB on L1 routers in the same area, as well as in the forwarding table if IS-IS is the best routing protocol from which the default route was learned – this can lead to suboptimal routing.

**`ignore-attached-bit`**

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Wait until iBGP is running before providing transit path

**set-overload-bit on-startup wait-for-bgp**

- Avoids blackholing traffic on router restart
- Causes ISIS to announce its prefixes with highest possible metric until iBGP is up and running
- When iBGP is running, ISIS metrics return to normal, make the path valid

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Enable the IPv6 address family for in IS-IS.

`address-family ipv6`

- ❑ Enable multi-topology support for IPv6 in IS-IS.

- Multi-topology support allows the IPv4 network topology to be independent of that of IPv6

`multi-topology`

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Things to consider on routers operating as Level-1-only IS's:
  - IS-IS BCP techniques under the IS-IS routing process
  - In addition to the interface, tell the IS-IS routing process to operate in a Level-1 area only

```
router isis 1
 is-type level-1
```

# Advanced Configuration

---

- ❑ Things to consider on routers operating as Level-1 and Level-2 IS's:
  - To prevent sub-optimal routing of traffic from L1 IS's in one area to L1 IS's in another area, configure and enable Route Leaking on L1/L2 routers that form the backbone connectivity between two or more different areas
  - Route Leaking permits L1/L2 routers to install L1 routes learned from one area into L1 IS's routing/forwarding tables in another area
  - This allows for reachability between L1 routers located behind L1/L2 routers in different areas

```
router isis 1
 redistribute isis ip level-2 into level-1 route-map FOO
!
ip prefix-list foo permit 0.0.0.0/0 le 32
!
route-map FOO permit 10
 match ip address prefix-list foo
```

# Advanced Configuration

---

- Doing the same for IPv6:

```
router isis 1
 address-family ipv6
 redistribute isis level-2 into level-1 route-map FOO6
 !
ip prefix-list foo6 permit ::/0 le 128
!
route-map FOO6 permit 10
 match ipv6 address prefix-list foo6
!
```

# Advanced Configuration

---

## □ Summary

- Best practice recommendations are commonly implemented on many ISP backbones
- Ensures efficient and scalable operation of ISIS



# ISIS for ISPs



ISP Training Workshops