

OSPF for ISPs

ISP Workshops



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Acknowledgements

- ❑ This material originated from the Cisco ISP/IXP Workshop Programme developed by Philip Smith & Barry Greene
- ❑ Use of these materials is encouraged as long as the source is fully acknowledged and this notice remains in place
- ❑ Bug fixes and improvements are welcomed
 - Please email *workshop (at) bgp4all.com*

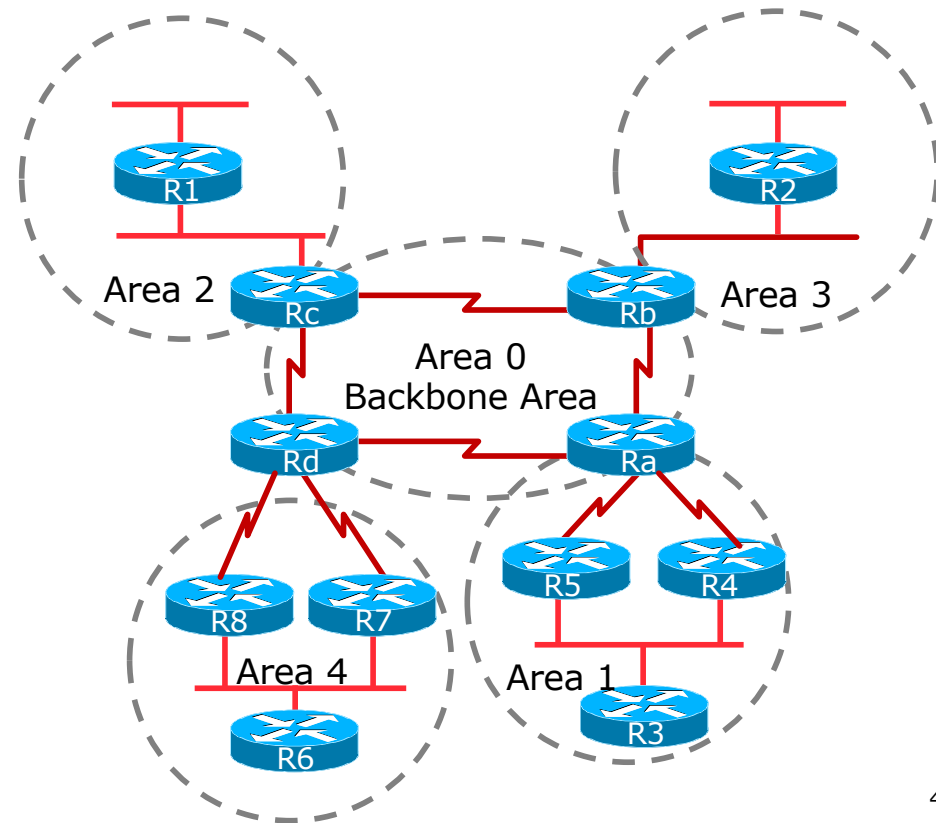
Philip Smith

OSPF Areas

- ❑ It is entirely possible to operate a network in single area with up to 300 routers
- ❑ Areas are used to scale OSPF for larger networks
 - OSPF has a large number of area types
 - **Only “regular” areas are useful for ISPs**
 - Other area types handle redistribution of other routing protocols into OSPF – ISPs don’t redistribute anything into OSPF

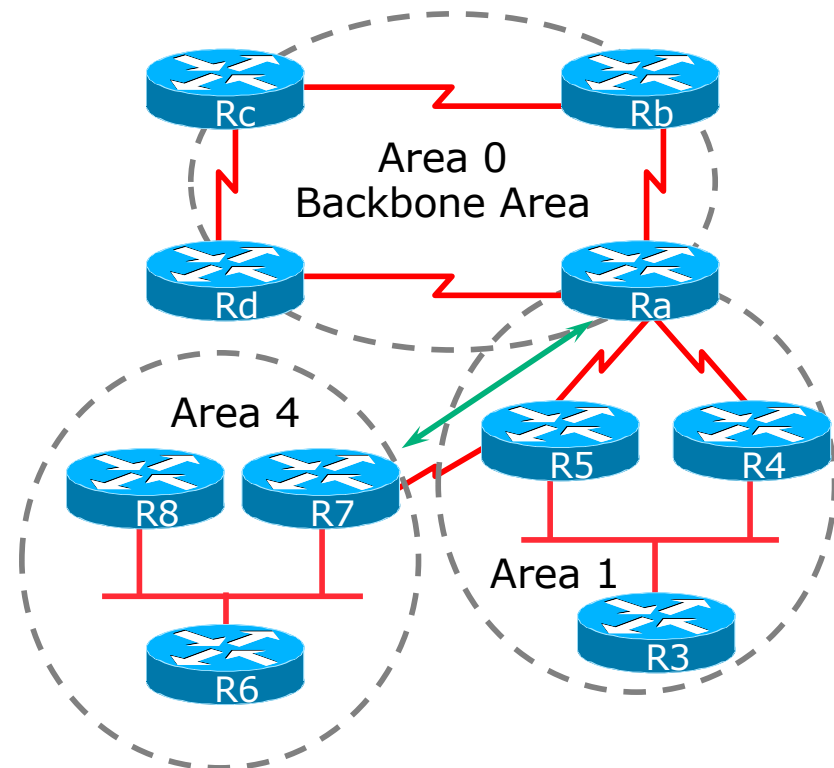
OSPF Areas

- Area is a group of contiguous hosts and networks
 - Reduces routing traffic
- Per area topology database
 - Invisible outside the area
- Backbone area **MUST** be contiguous
 - All other areas must be connected to the backbone

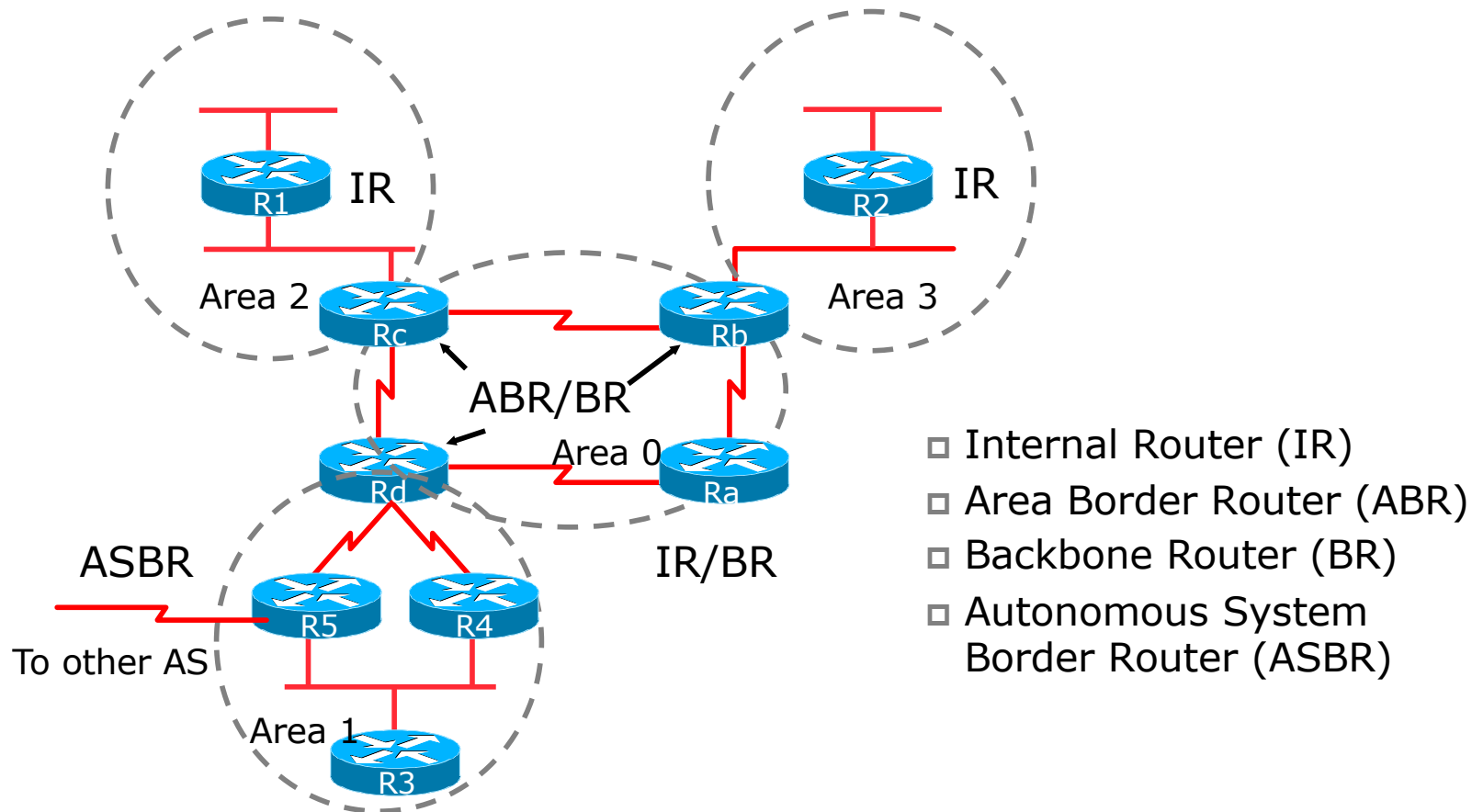


Virtual Links between OSPF Areas

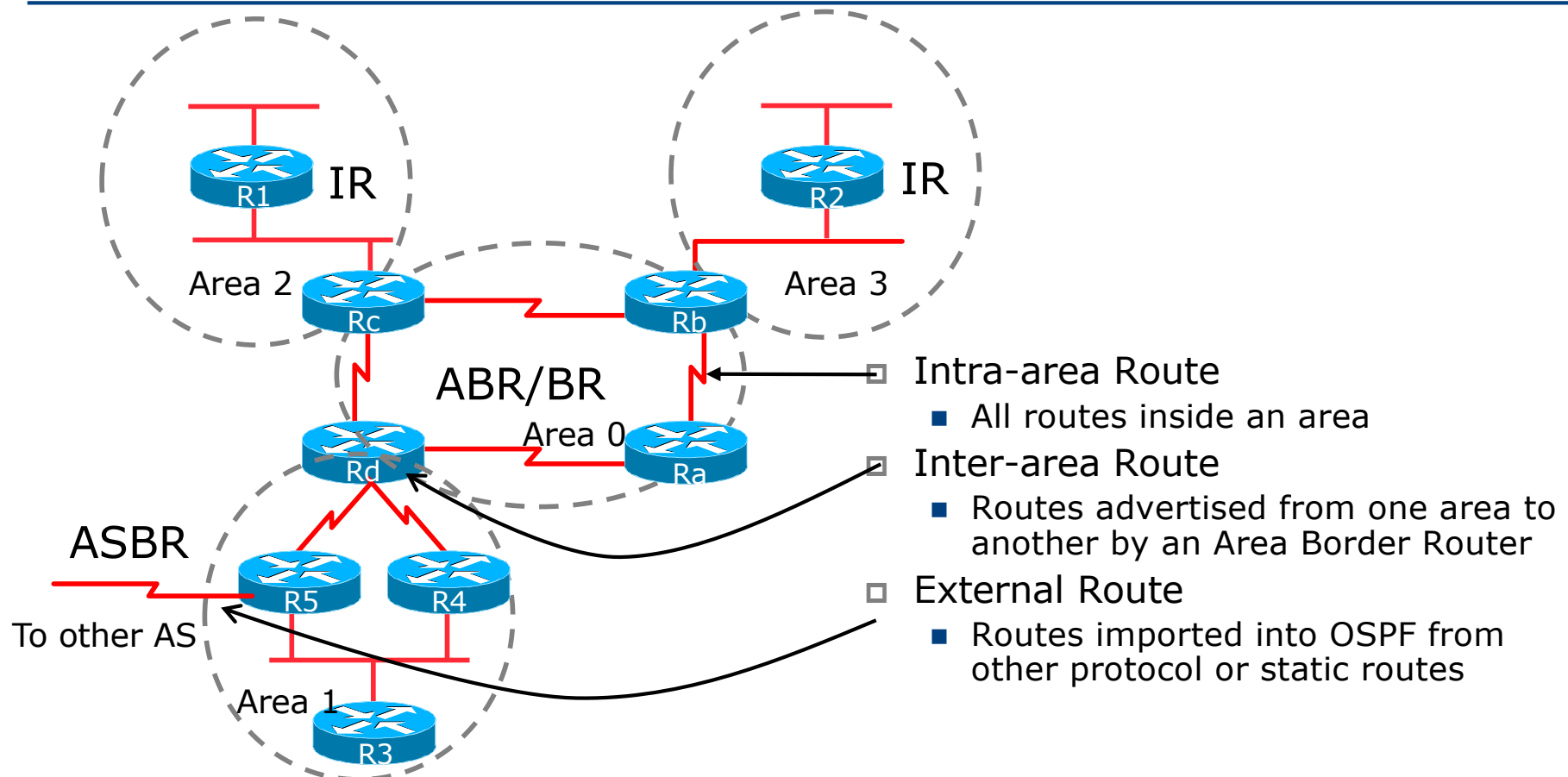
- ❑ Virtual Link is used when it is not possible to physically connect the area to the backbone
- ❑ **ISPs avoid designs which require virtual links**
 - Increases complexity
 - Decreases reliability and scalability



Classification of Routers

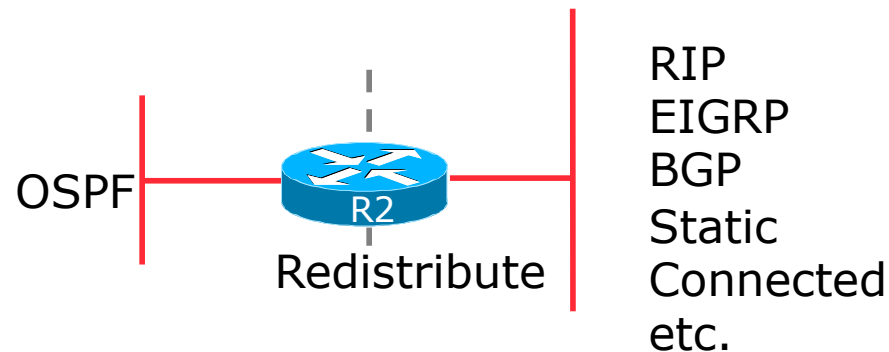


OSPF Route Types



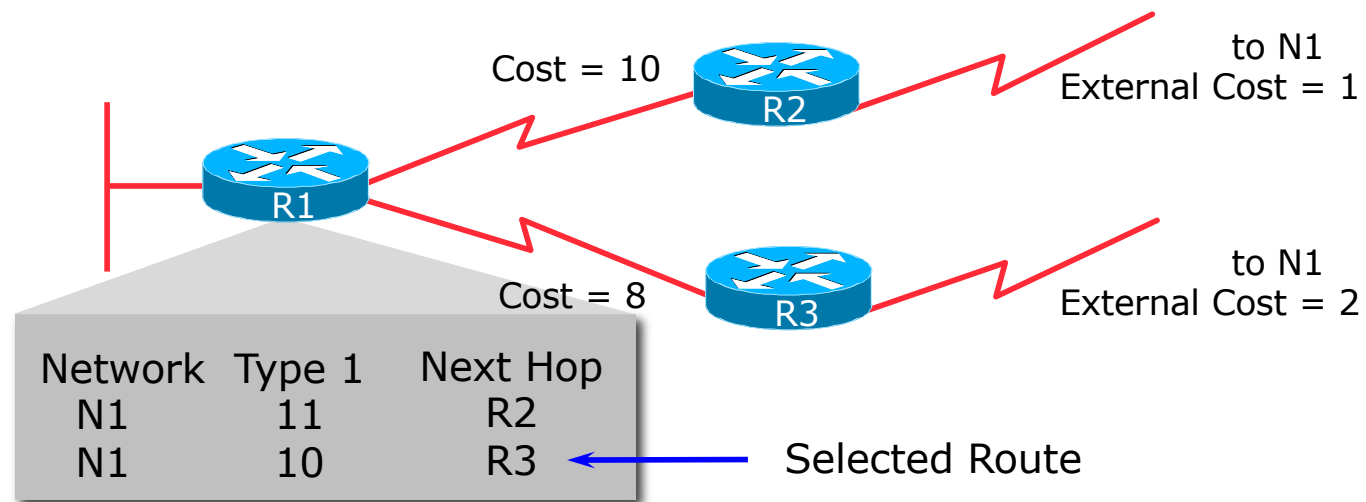
External Routes

- ❑ Prefixes which are redistributed into OSPF from other protocols
- ❑ Flooded unaltered throughout the AS
 - **Recommendation: Avoid redistribution!!**
- ❑ OSPF supports two types of external metrics
 - Type 1 external metrics
 - Type 2 external metrics (Cisco IOS default)



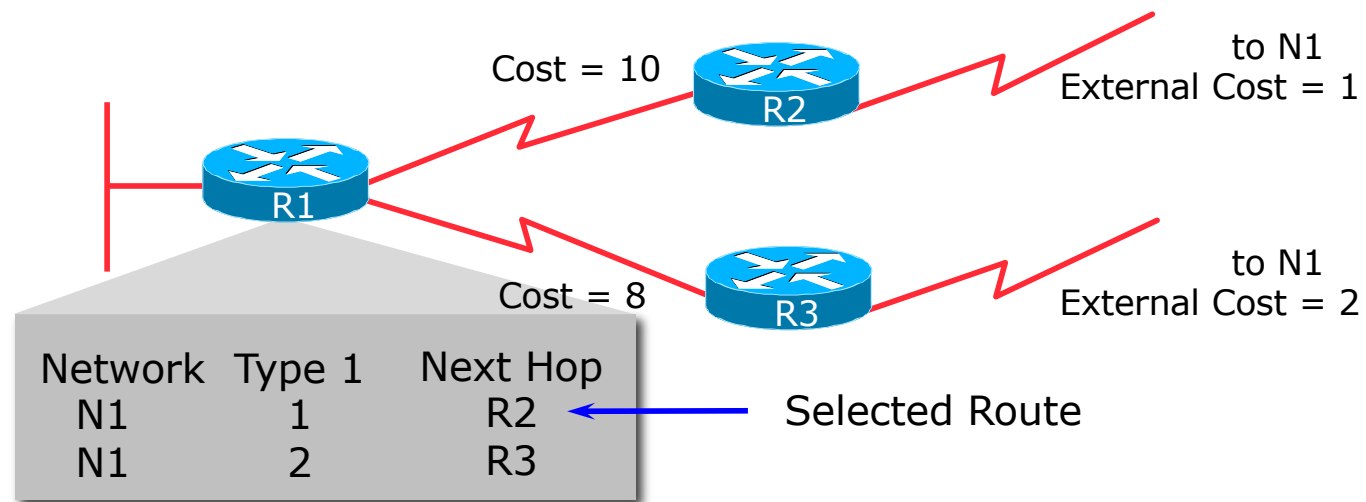
External Routes

- Type 1 external metric: metrics are added to the summarised internal link cost



External Routes

- Type 2 external metric: metrics are compared without adding to the internal link cost

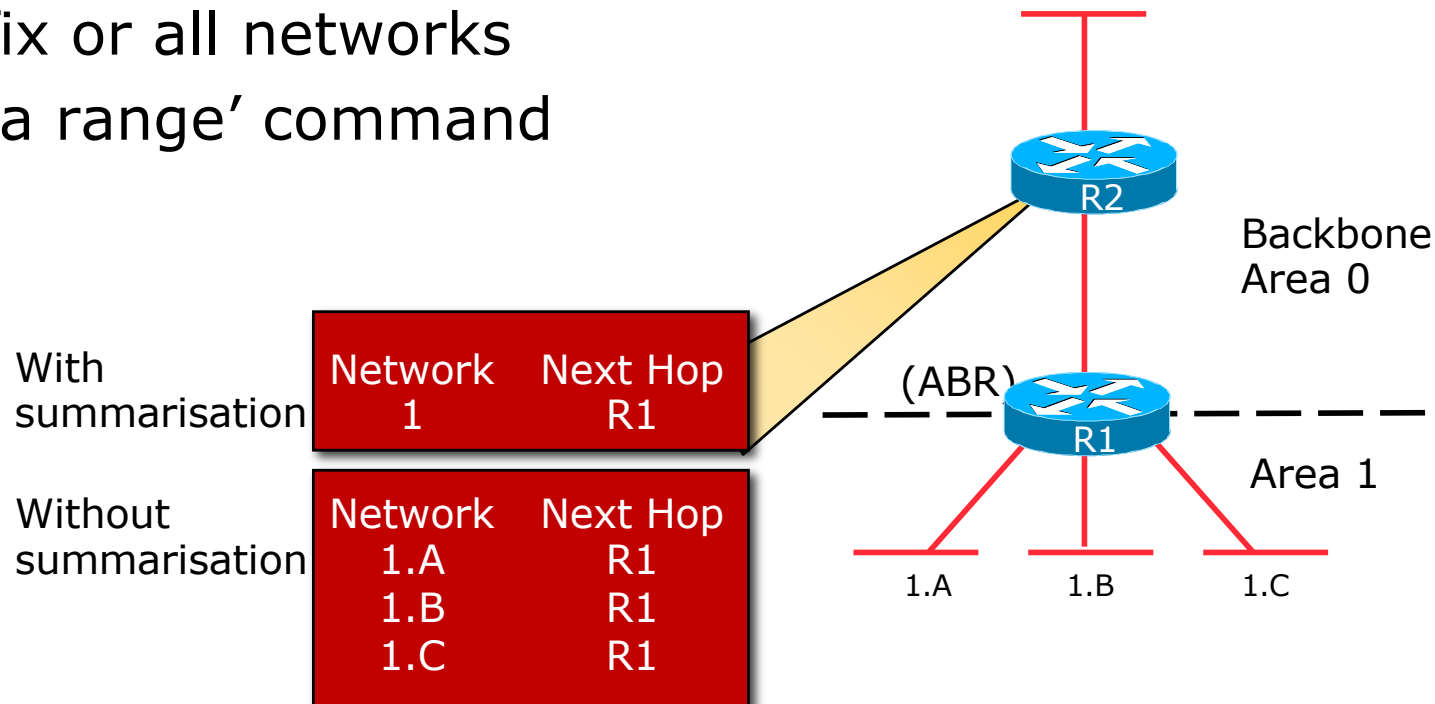


Topology/Link State Database

- ❑ A router has a separate LS database for each area to which it belongs
- ❑ All routers belonging to the same area have identical database
- ❑ SPF calculation is performed separately for each area
- ❑ LSA flooding is bounded by area
- ❑ **Recommendation:**
 - Limit the number of areas a router participates in!!
 - 1 to 3 is fine (typical ISP design)
 - >3 can overload the CPU depending on the area topology complexity

Inter-Area Route Summarisation

- ❑ Prefix or all subnets
- ❑ Prefix or all networks
- ❑ 'Area range' command

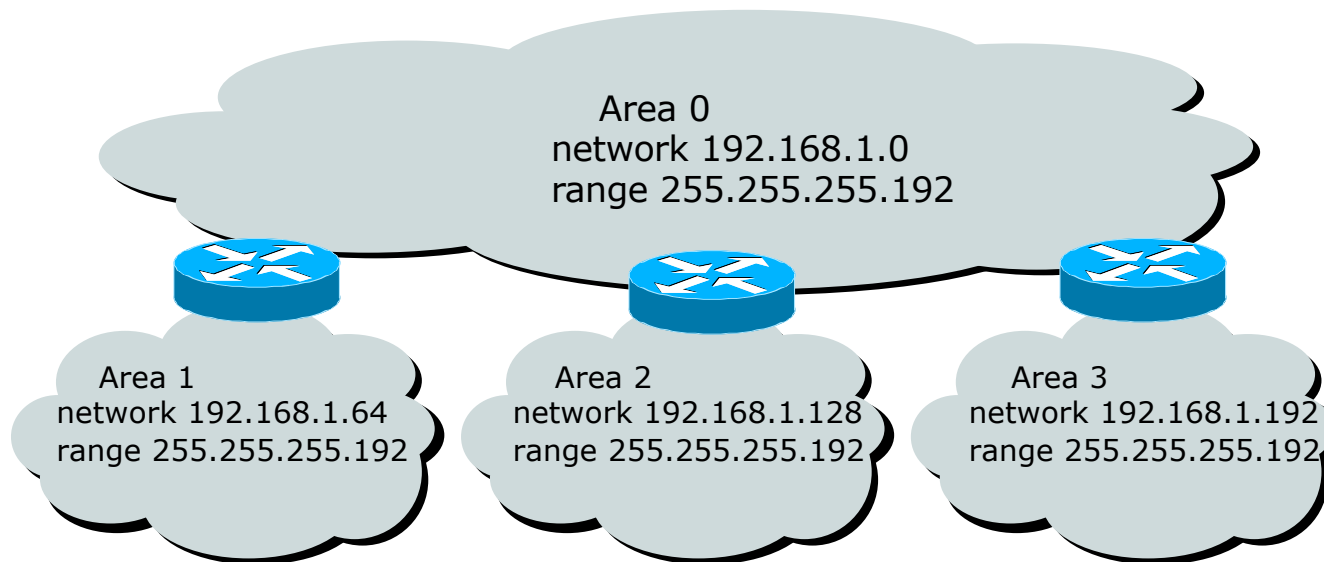




ISP Use of Areas

- ❑ ISP networks use:
 - Backbone area
 - Regular area
- ❑ Backbone area
 - No partitioning
- ❑ Regular area
 - Summarisation of point to point link addresses used within areas
 - Loopback addresses allowed out of regular areas without summarisation (otherwise iBGP won't work)

Addressing for Areas



- ▣ Assign contiguous ranges of subnets per area to facilitate summarisation

OSPF for Service Providers



Configuring OSPF & Adding Networks

OSPF: Configuration

❑ Starting OSPF in Cisco's IOS

```
router ospf 100
```

- Where "100" is the process ID

❑ OSPF process ID is unique to the router

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

OSPF: Establishing Adjacencies

- ❑ Cisco IOS OSPFv2 automatically tries to establish adjacencies on all defined interfaces (or subnets)
- ❑ Best practice is to disable this
 - Potential security risk: sending OSPF Hellos outside of the autonomous system, and risking forming adjacencies with external networks
 - Example: Only POS4/0 interface will attempt to form an OSPF adjacency

```
router ospf 100
  passive-interface default
  no passive-interface POS4/0
```

OSPF: Adding Networks

Option One

❑ Redistribution:

- Applies to all connected interfaces on the router but sends networks as external type-2s – which are not summarised

```
router ospf 100
 redistribute connected subnets
```

❑ **Do NOT do this!** Because:

- Type-2 LSAs flood through entire network
- These LSAs are not all useful for determining paths through backbone; they simply take up valuable space

OSPF: Adding Networks

Option Two

- ❑ Per link configuration – from IOS 12.4 onwards
 - OSPF is configured on each interface (same as IS-IS)
 - Useful for multiple subnets per interface

```
interface POS 4/0
  ip address 192.168.1.1 255.255.255.0
  ip address 172.16.1.1 255.255.255.224 secondary
  ip ospf 100 area 0
!
router ospf 100
  passive-interface default
  no passive-interface POS 4/0
```

OSPF: Adding Networks

Option Three

- ❑ Specific network statements
 - Every active interface with a configured IP address needs an OSPF network statement
 - Interfaces that will have no OSPF neighbours need passive-interface to disable OSPF Hello's
 - ❑ This means all interfaces connecting to devices outside the ISP backbone (i.e. customers, peers, etc)

```
router ospf 100
 network 192.168.1.0 0.0.0.3 area 51
 network 192.168.1.4 0.0.0.3 area 51
 passive-interface Serial 1/0
```

OSPF: Adding Networks

Option Four

- ❑ Network statements – wildcard mask
 - Every active interface with configured IP address covered by wildcard mask used in OSPF network statement
 - Interfaces covered by wildcard mask but having no OSPF neighbours need passive-interface (or use passive-interface default and then activate the interfaces which will have OSPF neighbours)

```
router ospf 100
 network 192.168.1.0 0.0.0.255 area 51
 passive-interface default
 no passive interface POS 4/0
```

OSPF: Adding Networks

Recommendations

- ❑ Don't ever use Option 1
- ❑ Use Option 2 if supported; otherwise:
- ❑ Option 3 is fine for core/infrastructure routers
 - Doesn't scale too well when router has a large number of interfaces but only a few with OSPF neighbours
 - → solution is to use Option 3 with "no passive" on interfaces with OSPF neighbours
- ❑ Option 4 is preferred for aggregation routers
 - Or use iBGP next-hop-self
 - Or even ip unnumbered on external point-to-point links

OSPF: Adding Networks

Example One (Cisco IOS ≥ 12.4)

- ❑ Aggregation router with large number of leased line customers and just two links to the core network:

```
interface loopback 0
  ip address 192.168.255.1 255.255.255.255
  ip ospf 100 area 0
interface POS 0/0
  ip address 192.168.10.1 255.255.255.252
  ip ospf 100 area 0
interface POS 1/0
  ip address 192.168.10.5 255.255.255.252
  ip ospf 100 area 0
interface serial 2/0:0 ...
  ip unnumbered loopback 0
! Customers connect here ^^^^^^
router ospf 100
  passive-interface default
  no passive interface POS 0/0
  no passive interface POS 1/0
```

OSPF: Adding Networks

Example One (Cisco IOS < 12.4)

- ❑ Aggregation router with large number of leased line customers and just two links to the core network:

```
interface loopback 0
 ip address 192.168.255.1 255.255.255.255
interface POS 0/0
 ip address 192.168.10.1 255.255.255.252
interface POS 1/0
 ip address 192.168.10.5 255.255.255.252
interface serial 2/0:0 ...
 ip unnumbered loopback 0
! Customers connect here ^^^^^^
router ospf 100
 network 192.168.255.1 0.0.0.0 area 51
 network 192.168.10.0 0.0.0.3 area 51
 network 192.168.10.4 0.0.0.3 area 51
 passive-interface default
 no passive interface POS 0/0
 no passive interface POS 1/0
```

OSPF: Adding Networks

Example Two (Cisco IOS ≥ 12.4)

- Core router with only links to other core routers:

```
interface loopback 0
  ip address 192.168.255.1 255.255.255.255
  ip ospf 100 area 0
interface POS 0/0
  ip address 192.168.10.129 255.255.255.252
  ip ospf 100 area 0
interface POS 1/0
  ip address 192.168.10.133 255.255.255.252
  ip ospf 100 area 0
interface POS 2/0
  ip address 192.168.10.137 255.255.255.252
  ip ospf 100 area 0
interface POS 2/1
  ip address 192.168.10.141 255.255.255.252
  ip ospf 100 area 0
router ospf 100
  passive interface loopback 0
```

OSPF: Adding Networks

Example Two (Cisco IOS < 12.4)

- Core router with only links to other core routers:

```
interface loopback 0
  ip address 192.168.255.1 255.255.255.255
interface POS 0/0
  ip address 192.168.10.129 255.255.255.252
interface POS 1/0
  ip address 192.168.10.133 255.255.255.252
interface POS 2/0
  ip address 192.168.10.137 255.255.255.252
interface POS 2/1
  ip address 192.168.10.141 255.255.255.252
router ospf 100
  network 192.168.255.1 0.0.0.0 area 0
  network 192.168.10.128 0.0.0.3 area 0
  network 192.168.10.132 0.0.0.3 area 0
  network 192.168.10.136 0.0.0.3 area 0
  network 192.168.10.140 0.0.0.3 area 0
  passive interface loopback 0
```

OSPF: Adding Networks

Summary

- Key Theme when selecting a technique: **Keep the Link State Database Lean**
 - Increases Stability
 - Reduces the amount of information in the Link State Advertisements (LSAs)
 - Speeds Convergence Time

OSPF for Service Providers



Network Design

OSPF Design: Addressing

- ❑ OSPF Design and Addressing go together
 - Objective is to keep the Link State Database lean
 - Create an address hierarchy to match the topology
 - Use separate Address Blocks for loopbacks, network infrastructure, customer interfaces & customers



OSPF Design: Addressing

- ❑ Minimising the number of prefixes in OSPF:
 - **Number loopbacks out of a contiguous address block**
 - ❑ But do not summarise these across area boundaries: iBGP peer addresses need to be in the IGP
 - Use contiguous address blocks per area for infrastructure point-to-point links
 - ❑ Use `area range` command on ABR to summarise
- ❑ With these guidelines:
 - Number of prefixes in area 0 will then be very close to the number of routers in the network
 - It is critically important that the number of prefixes and LSAs in area 0 is kept to the absolute minimum

OSPF Design: Areas

- ❑ Examine physical topology
 - Is it meshed or hub-and-spoke?
- ❑ Use areas and summarisation
 - This reduces overhead and LSA counts
 - (but watch next-hop for iBGP when summarising)
- ❑ Don't bother with the various stub areas
 - No benefits for ISPs, causes problems for iBGP
- ❑ Push the creation of a backbone
 - Reduces mesh and promotes hierarchy

OSPF Design: Areas

- ❑ One SPF per area, flooding done per area
 - Watch out for overloading ABRs
- ❑ Avoid externals in OSPF
 - **DO NOT REDISTRIBUTE** into OSPF
 - External LSAs flood through entire network
- ❑ Different types of areas do different flooding
 - Normal areas
 - Stub areas
 - Totally stubby (stub no-summary)
 - Not so stubby areas (NSSA)

OSPF Design: Areas

- Area 0 **must** be contiguous
 - Do NOT use virtual links to join two Area 0 islands
- Traffic between two non-zero areas always goes via Area 0
 - **There is no benefit in joining two non-zero areas together**
 - Avoid designs which have two non-zero areas touching each other
 - (Typical design is an area per PoP, with core routers being ABR to the backbone area 0)

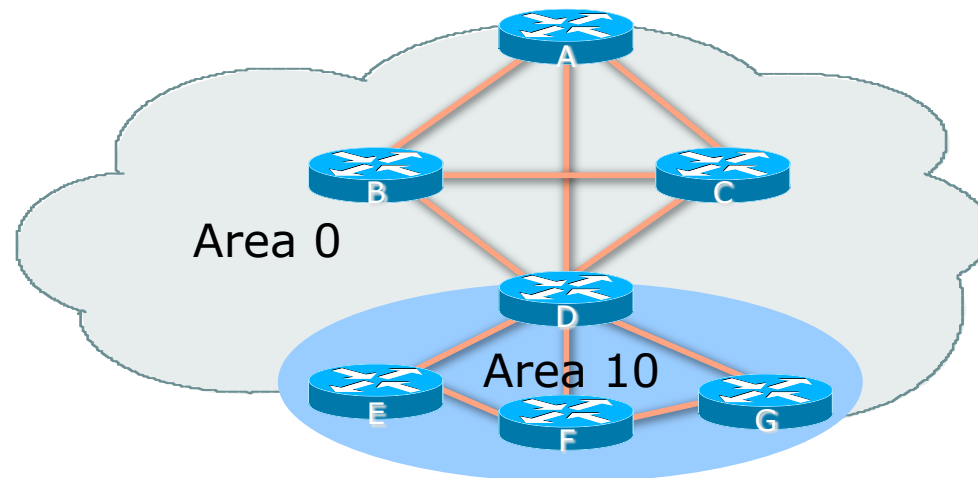
OSPF Design: Summary

- ❑ Think Redundancy
 - Dual Links out of each area – using metrics (cost) for traffic engineering
- ❑ Too much redundancy...
 - Dual links to backbone in stub areas must be the same cost – otherwise sub-optimal routing will result
 - Too Much Redundancy in the backbone area without good summarisation will affect convergence in the Area 0

OSPF Areas: Migration

- ❑ Where to place OSPF Areas?
 - **Follow the physical topology!**
 - Remember the earlier design advice
- ❑ Configure area at a time!
 - Start at the outermost edge of the network
 - Log into routers at either end of a link and change the link from Area 0 to the chosen Area
 - Wait for OSPF to re-establish adjacencies
 - And then move onto the next link, etc
 - Important to ensure that there is never an Area 0 island anywhere in the migrating network

OSPF Areas: Migration



- ❑ Migrate small parts of the network, one area at a time
 - Remember to introduce summarisation where feasible
- ❑ With careful planning, the migration can be done with minimal network downtime

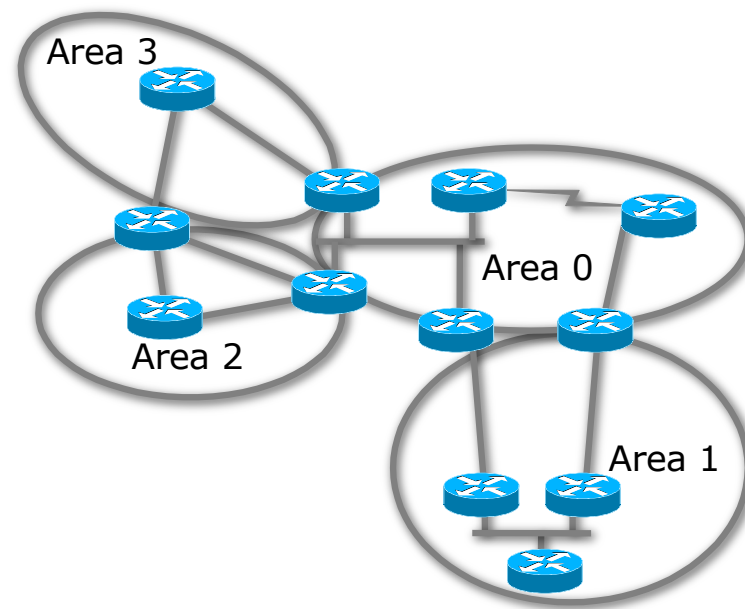
OSPF for Service Providers



Useful features for ISPs

Areas

- An area is stored as a 32-bit field:
 - Defined in IPv4 address format (i.e. Area 0.0.0.0)
 - Can also be defined using single decimal value (i.e. Area 0)
- 0.0.0.0 reserved for the backbone area



Logging Adjacency Changes

- ❑ The router will generate a log message whenever an OSPF neighbour changes state

- ❑ Syntax:

```
[no] [ospf] log-adjacency-changes
```

- (OSPF keyword is optional, depending on IOS version)

- ❑ Example of a typical log message:

```
%OSPF-5-ADJCHG: Process 1, Nbr 223.127.255.223 on Ethernet0  
from LOADING to FULL, Loading Done
```

Number of State Changes

- The number of state transitions is available via SNMP (ospfNbrEvents) and the CLI:

```
show ip ospf neighbor [type number] [neighbor-id] [detail]
```

- Detail—(Optional) Displays all neighbours given in detail (list all neighbours). When specified, neighbour state transition counters are displayed per interface or neighbour ID

State Changes (Continued)

- ❑ To reset OSPF-related statistics, use the following command:

```
clear ip ospf counters
```

- This will reset neighbour state transition counters per interface or neighbour id:

```
clear ip ospf counters [neighbor [<type number>] [neighbor-id]]
```

Router ID

- ❑ If the loopback interface exists and has an IP address, that is used as the router ID in routing protocols – **stability!**
- ❑ If the loopback interface does not exist, or has no IP address, the router ID is the highest IP address configured – **danger!**
- ❑ OSPF sub command to manually set the Router ID:

```
router-id <ip address>
```

Cost & Reference Bandwidth

- ❑ Bandwidth used in Metric calculation
 - $\text{Cost} = 10^8 / \text{bandwidth}$
 - Not useful for interface bandwidths > 100 Mbps
- ❑ Syntax:

```
ospf auto-cost reference-bandwidth <reference-bw>
```
- ❑ Default reference bandwidth still 100 Mbps for backward compatibility
- ❑ Most ISPs simply choose to develop their own cost strategy and apply to each interface type

Cost: Example Strategy

Physical Interface	Link Speed	Cost
400GE	400Gbps	2
100GE	100Gbps	5
40GE/OC768	40Gbps	10
25GE	25Gbps	20
10GE/OC192	10Gbps	50
OC48/2.5GE	2.5Gbps	100
GigabitEthernet	1Gbps	200
OC12	622Mbps	500
OC3	155Mbps	1000
FastEthernet	100Mbps	2000

Default routes

❑ Originating a default route into OSPF

```
default-information originate metric <n>
```

- Will originate a default route into OSPF if there is a matching default route in the Routing Table (RIB)
- The optional **always** keyword will always originate a default route, even if there is no existing entry in the RIB

Clear/Restart

- ❑ OSPF **clear** commands
 - If no process ID is given, all OSPF processes on the router are assumed
- ❑ **clear ip ospf [pid] redistribution**
 - This command clears redistribution based on OSPF routing process ID
- ❑ **clear ip ospf [pid] counters**
 - This command clears counters based on OSPF routing process ID
- ❑ **clear ip ospf [pid] process**
 - This command will restart the specified OSPF process. It attempts to keep the old router-id, except in cases where a new router-id was configured or an old user configured router-id was removed. Since this command can potentially cause a network churn, a user confirmation is required before performing any action

Use OSPF Authentication

- ❑ Use authentication
 - Too many operators overlook this basic requirement
- ❑ When using authentication, use the MD5 feature
 - Under the global OSPF configuration, specify:

```
area <area-id> authentication message-digest
```
 - Under the interface configuration, specify:

```
ip ospf message-digest-key 1 md5 <key>
```
- ❑ Authentication can be selectively disabled per interface with:

```
ip ospf authentication null
```

Point to Point Ethernet Links

- ❑ For any broadcast media (like Ethernet), OSPF will attempt to elect a designated and backup designated router when it forms an adjacency
 - If the interface is running as a point-to-point WAN link, with only 2 routers on the wire, configuring OSPF 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 DR/BDR on the link,
 - ❑ Simplifies the SPF computations and reduces the router’s memory footprint due to a smaller topology database.

```
interface fastethernet0/2
 ip ospf network point-to-point
```

Tuning OSPF (1)

□ DR/BDR Selection

- `ip ospf priority 100` (default 1)
- This feature should be in use in your OSPF network
- Forcibly set your DR and BDR per segment so that they are known
- Choose your most powerful, or most idle routers, so that OSPF converges as fast as possible under maximum network load conditions
- Try to keep the DR/BDR limited to one segment each

Tuning OSPF (2)

❑ OSPF startup

```
max-metric router-lsa on-startup wait-for-bgp
```

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

❑ IS-IS equivalent:

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

Tuning OSPF (3)

□ Hello/Dead Timers

- `ip ospf hello-interval 3` (default 10)
- `ip ospf dead-interval 15` (default is 4x hello)
- This allows for faster network awareness of a failure, and can result in faster reconvergence, but requires more router CPU and generates more overhead

□ LSA Pacing

- `timers lsa-group-pacing 300` (default 240)
- Allows grouping and pacing of LSA updates at configured interval
- Reduces overall network and router impact

Tuning OSPF (4)

□ OSPF Internal Timers

- `timers spf 2 8` (default is 5 and 10 respectively)
- Allows you to adjust SPF characteristics
- The first number sets wait time from topology change to SPF run
- The second is hold-down between SPF runs
- BE CAREFUL WITH THIS COMMAND; if you're not sure when to use it, it means you don't need it; default is sufficient 95% of the time

Tuning OSPF (5)

❑ LSA filtering/interface blocking

■ Per interface:

```
ip ospf database-filter all out
```

 (no options)

■ Per neighbor:

```
neighbor 1.1.1.1 database-filter all out
```

 (no options)

- OSPF's router will flood an LSA out all interfaces except the receiving one; LSA filtering can be useful in cases where such flooding unnecessary (i.e., NBMA networks), where the DR/BDR can handle flooding chores

```
area <area-id> filter-list <acl>
```

- Filters out specific Type 3 LSAs at ABRs

❑ Improper use can result in routing loops and black-holes that can be very difficult to troubleshoot



Summary

- ❑ OSPF has a bewildering number of features and options
- ❑ Observe ISP best practices
- ❑ Keep design and configuration simple
- ❑ Investigate tuning options and suitability for your own network
 - Don't just turn them on!

OSPF for ISPs



ISP Workshops