



Provisioning Carrier Supporting Carrier

This chapter describes how to configure the carrier supporting carrier (CSC) feature using the IP Solution Center (ISC) provisioning process. This chapter contains the following major sections:

- [Carrier Supporting Carrier Overview, page 9-1](#)
- [Defining a CSC Service Policy, page 9-5](#)
- [Provisioning a CSC Service Request, page 9-5](#)

Carrier Supporting Carrier Overview

The carrier supporting carrier feature enables one MPLS VPN-based service provider to allow other service providers to use a segment of its backbone network. The service provider that provides the segment of the backbone network to the other provider is called the backbone carrier. The service provider that uses the segment of the backbone network is called the customer carrier.

This documentation focuses on a backbone carrier that offers Border Gateway Protocol and Multiprotocol Label Switching (BGP/MPLS) VPN services. There can be two types of customer carriers:

- An Internet service provider (ISP)
- A BGP/MPLS VPN service provider

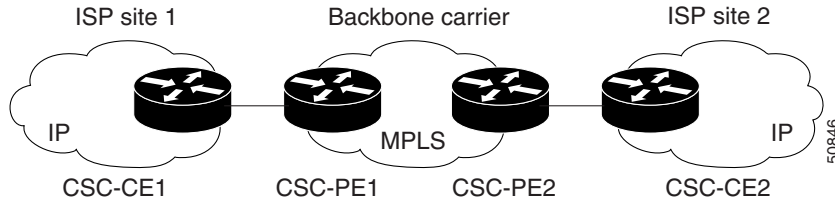
This documentation describes both types of customer carrier.

It is transparent to the backbone provider when either scenario is in use, after the required functionality for basic MPLS VPN CSC is implemented in the backbone network.

Backbone Network with a Customer Carrier Who Is an ISP

In this network configuration, the customer carrier has two sites, each of which is a point of presence (POP). The customer carrier connects these sites using a VPN service provided by a backbone carrier, who uses MPLS. The ISP sites use IP. To enable packet transfer between the ISP sites and the backbone carrier, the CSC-CE routers that connect the ISPs to the backbone carrier run MPLS.

[Figure 9-1](#) shows a carrier supporting carrier network configuration where the customer carrier is an ISP. The customer carrier has two sites, each of which is a point of presence (POP). The customer carrier connects these sites using a VPN service provided by the backbone carrier. The backbone carrier uses MPLS. The ISP sites use IP. To enable packet transfer between the ISP sites and the backbone carrier, the CSC-CE routers that connect the ISPs to the backbone carrier run MPLS.

Figure 9-1 *Carrier Supporting Carrier Network with a Customer Carrier Who Is an ISP*

In this example, only the backbone carrier uses MPLS. The customer carrier (ISP) uses only IP. As a result, the backbone carrier must carry all the Internet routes of the customer carrier, which could be as many as 100,000 routes. This poses a scalability problem for the backbone carrier. To solve the scalability problem, the backbone carrier is configured as follows:

- The backbone carrier allows only internal routes of the customer carrier (IGP routes) to be exchanged between the CSC-CE routers of the customer carrier and the CSC-PE routers of the backbone carrier.
- MPLS is enabled on the interface between the CSC-CE router of the customer carrier and the CSC-PE router of the backbone carrier.

Internal and external routes are differentiated this way:

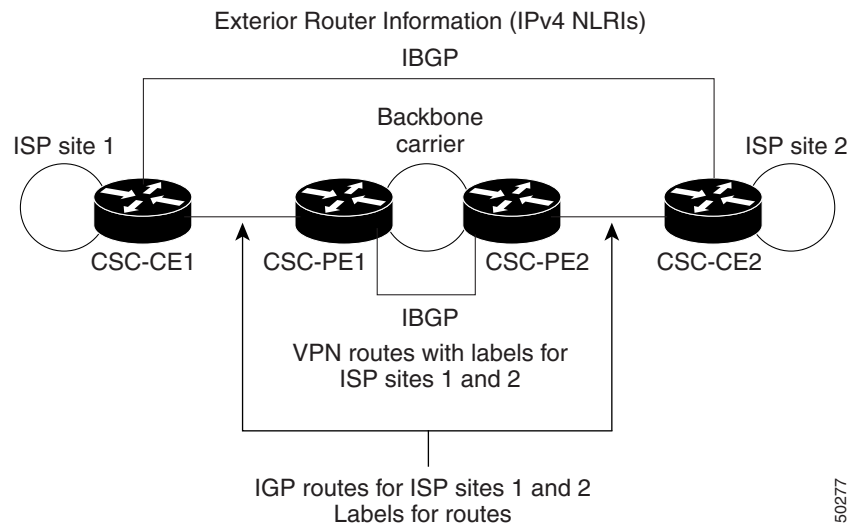
- Internal routes go to any of the routers within the ISP.
- External routes go to the Internet.

The number of internal routes is much smaller than the number of external routes. Restricting the routes between the CSC-CE routers of the customer carrier and the CSC-PE routers of the backbone carrier significantly reduces the number of routes that the CSC-PE router needs to maintain.

Since the CSC-PE routers do not have to carry external routes in the VRF routing table, they can use the incoming label in the packet to forward the customer carrier Internet traffic. Adding MPLS to the routers provides a consistent method of transporting packets from the customer carrier to the backbone carrier. MPLS allows the exchange of an MPLS label between the CSC-PE and the CSC-CE routers for every internal customer carrier route. The routers in the customer carrier have all the external routes either through IBGP or route redistribution to provide Internet connectivity.

Figure 9-2 shows how information is exchanged when the network is configured in this manner.

Figure 9-2 Backbone Carrier Exchanging Routing Information with a Customer Carrier Who Is an ISP



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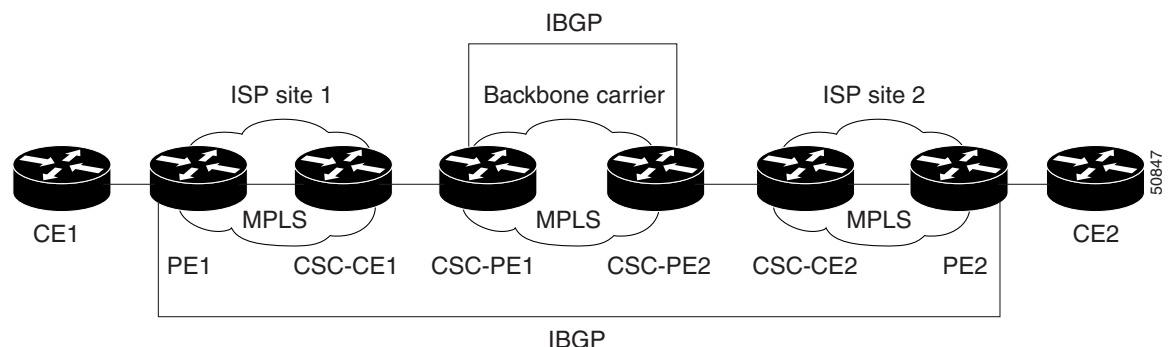
Backbone Network with a Customer Carrier Who Is a BGP/MPLS VPN Service Provider

When a backbone carrier and the customer carrier both provide BGP/MPLS VPN services, the method of transporting data is different from when a customer carrier provides only ISP services. The following list highlights those differences.

- When a customer carrier provides BGP/MPLS VPN services, its external routes are VPN-IPv4 routes. When a customer carrier is an ISP, its external routes are IP routes.
- When a customer carrier provides BGP/MPLS VPN services, every site within the customer carrier must use MPLS. When a customer carrier is an ISP, the sites do not need to use MPLS.

Figure 9-3 figure shows a carrier supporting carrier network configuration where the customer carrier is an MPLS VPN provider. The customer carrier has two sites. The backbone carrier and the customer carrier use MPLS. The IBGP sessions exchange the external routing information of the ISP.

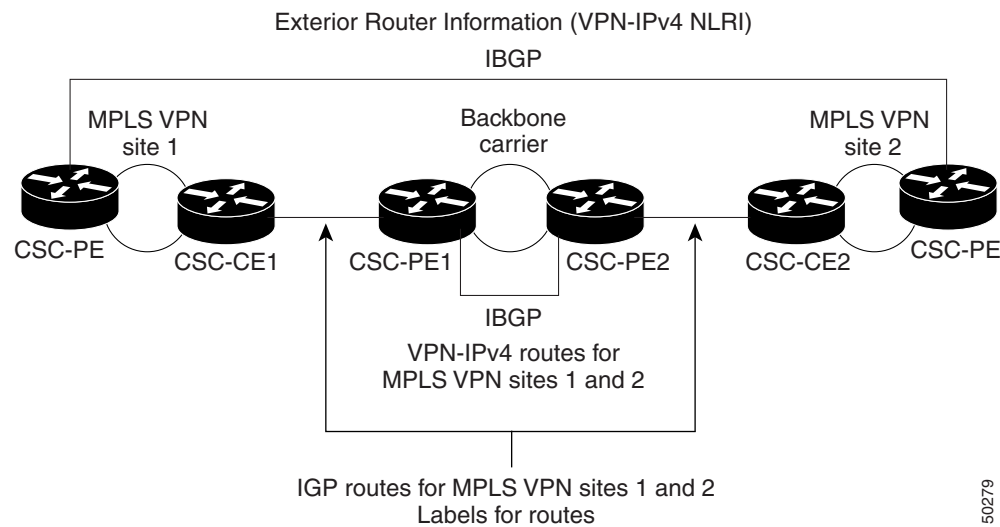
Figure 9-3 Carrier Supporting Carrier Network with a Customer Carrier Who Is an MPLS VPN Provider



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Figure 9-3 figure shows exchanging information with a customer carrier who is an MPLS VPN service provider.

Figure 9-4 Backbone Carrier Exchanging Information with a Customer Carrier Who Is an MPLS VPN Service Provider



ISC Configuration Options

To configure the CSC network to exchange routes and carry labels between the backbone carrier provider edge (CSC-PE) routers and the customer carrier customer edge (CSC-CE) routers, use Label Distribution Protocol (LDP) to carry the labels and an Internal Gateway Protocol (IGP) to carry the routes.

LDP/IGP

A routing protocol is required between the CSC-PE and CSC-CE routers that connect the backbone carrier to the customer carrier. The routing protocol enables the customer carrier to exchange IGP routing information with the backbone carrier. RIP, OSPF, or static routing as the routing protocol can be selected.

Label distribution protocol (LDP) is required between the CSC-PE and CSC-CE routers that connect the backbone carrier to the customer carrier. LDP is also required on the CSC-PE to CSC-CE interface for VPN routing/forwarding (VRF).

IPv4 BGP Label Distribution

BGP takes the place of an IGP and LDP in a VPN forwarding/routing instance (VRF) table. You can use BGP to distribute routes and MPLS labels. Using a single protocol instead of two simplifies the configuration and troubleshooting.

BGP is the preferred routing protocol for connecting two ISPs, mainly because of its routing policies and ability to scale. ISPs commonly use BGP between two providers. This feature enables those ISPs to use BGP.

When BGP (both EBGp and IBGP) distributes a route, it can also distribute an MPLS label that is mapped to that route. The MPLS label mapping information for the route is carried in the BGP update message that contains the information about the route. If the next hop is not changed, the label is preserved.

Defining a CSC Service Policy

To define a Service Policy with CSC, choose the CSC Support check box from the MPLS Policy Editor - Routing Information, as shown in [Figure 9-5](#).

Figure 9-5 CSC Service Policy

MPLS Policy Editor - Routing Information

Attribute	Value	Editable
PE-CE Routing Information		
Routing Protocol	RIP	☒
CsC Support:	☒	☒
Give Only Default Routes to CE:	☐	☒
Redistribute Static (BGP only):	☐	☒
Redistribute Connected (BGP only):	☒	☒
RIP Metrics (BGP only):	(1-16)	☒
Redistributed Protocols on PE	Edit	☒
Redistributed Protocols on CE:	Edit	☒

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When CSC Support is checked, the CSC functionality is enabled to the MPLS VPN service.

Provisioning a CSC Service Request

To provision a Service Request with CSC, choose the CSC Support check box from the MPLS Link Attribute Editor - Routing Information, as shown in [Figure 9-6](#).

Figure 9-6 *CSC Service Request*

MPLS Link Attribute Editor - Routing Information

Attribute	Value
PE-CE Routing Information	
Routing Protocol	RIP
CsC Support:	☒
Give Only Default Routes to CE:	☐
Redistribute Static (BGP only):	☐
Redistribute Connected (BGP only):	☒
RIP Metrics (BGP only):	(1-16)
Redistributed Protocols on PE	Edit
Redistributed Protocols on CE:	Edit

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When CSC Support is checked, the CSC functionality is enabled for the MPLS VPN service.