

Enhanced Interior Gateway Routing Protocol (EIGRP) Informational RFC Frequently Asked Questions

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Q. Why is Cisco opening up Enhanced Interior Gateway Routing Protocol (EIGRP)?

A. Cisco is opening up its EIGRP routing protocol as an open standard in order to help companies operate in a multi-vendor environment. Customers should be able to pick the best protocol that works for them, based on technical merits. Any networking vendor can now freely implement EIGRP on their equipment, and interoperate with thousands of networks running EIGRP today.

Q. What is Cisco releasing?

A. Cisco is releasing the basic EIGRP to the IETF as an Informational RFC. This includes all the information needed to implement EIGRP, and its associated features, including High Availability (HA).

Q. Will EIGRP specifications change after it's released, just like CDP evolved to LLDP?

A. EIGRP is being released as an "Informational RFC", and that allows Cisco to retain control of the EIGRP protocol in order to preserve the customer experience and deployment investments. The EIGRP protocol will not be changed.

Q. How does this help with my company transitioning to IPv6?

A. EIGRP protocol is very flexible and it supports both IPv4 and IPv6, unlike OSPF where IPv6 is only supported in OSPFv3. If the customer is already running EIGRP for their IPv4 network, they can use their existing knowledge and investment in EIGRP to support IPv6 as well.

A lot of companies look to USGv6 for IPv6 migration recommendations and best practices, and now with EIGRP open, Cisco will work with NIST to insert EIGRP as a routing protocol in addition to other Interior Gateway Protocols (IGPs).

Q. Who are the vendors planning to implement EIGRP?

A. Cisco expects other major networking vendors to come out with their own EIGRP implementation. In addition to networking vendors, Cisco is also working with additional network test vendors to make sure their routing protocol suites also include EIGRP.

Q. What does this mean to me as an EIGRP customer?

A. If your customers are currently running EIGRP, you can continue to run EIGRP as you are today. Furthermore, you can expect more router/switch vendors and small companies with appliances supporting this protocol in the future. When migrating to IPv6, you can continue to use EIGRP as a routing protocol and look forward to USGv6 standard for EIGRP recommendations.

If your customer is running OSPF simply because you don't want to deploy a proprietary protocol, there may be some EIGRP features that may benefit you. View this webinar

(<https://communities.cisco.com/docs/DOC-30498>) for a comparison between EIGRP and OSPF strengths.

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- Q.** What is Cisco doing to continue to improve its EIGRP implementation?
- A.** Cisco has a 20-year head start with EIGRP and Cisco will continue to innovate in the areas of usability, scalability and high availability. EIGRP is the only protocol that can scale in a DMVPN network, and Cisco is working to scale the number of DMVPN peers further over time. Cisco is also actively working on some unique solutions that help customers solve the complexity in deploying and troubleshooting EIGRP in their networks.

When there are additional EIGRP implementations, Cisco will be happy to work with other vendors to ensure interoperability.

- Q.** Where can I find out more information about this EIGRP Informational RFC?
- A.** The detailed specification can be found in the draft “draft-savage-eigrp-00”
- Q.** Where can I find out more information about EIGRP?
- A.** Visit the EIGRP product information page at: <http://www.cisco.com/go/eigrp>



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