



# Practical BGP

By Russ White, Danny McPherson, Srihari Sangli

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## PRACTICAL BGP

*“I would recommend this book to network engineers, Internet service providers, network software developers, and IT staff who need to deal with network planning and routing.”*

—Enke Chen, Redback Networks

### **Hands-on guidance for deploying and optimizing BGP networks—enterprise and ISP**

Now there’s a practical guide to deploying and managing BGPv4 in *any* environment—from small enterprises to the largest Tier 2 and Tier 3 service providers. A team of the world’s leading BGP experts brings together powerful insights into network design, configuration, and deployment with the latest version of BGP—including hands-on guidance for leveraging its key enhancements. Coverage includes

- Best practices and diverse real-world scenarios for applying BGPv4
- Understanding the impact of BGP design on local networks and the global Internet backbone
- Building effective BGP policies: aggregation, propagation, accounting, and more
- Maximizing scalability and performance in BGPv4 networks
- BGP and network security, including Secure Origin BGP
- Deploying BGP/MPLS Layer 3 VPNs
- *Extensive troubleshooting guidance unavailable in any other book*

If you’re a network engineer or administrator looking to drive maximum reliability and performance from BGP-based networks, *Practical BGP* will help you get the job done—from start to finish.

**RUSS WHITE** is a Network Protocols Deployment Engineer in Cisco Systems Routing DNA Team specializing in routing protocols. A widely recognized expert in networking, he co-chairs the IETF Routing Protocols Security working group, and co-authored *Advanced IP Network Design*, *IS—IS for IP Networks*, and *Inside Cisco IOS Software Architecture*.

**DANNY MCPHERSON** is a member of the Architecture Team at Arbor Networks. He has held technical leadership positions with several global ISPs, is active within the IETF, and is an acknowledged expert in Internet architecture and security. He co-authored *Internet Routing Architectures*, Second Edition.

**SRIHARI SANGLI**, Senior Manager for MPLS and routing development at

Procket Networks, was formerly Senior Technical Leader in Cisco's IOS Routing Protocols group. He, along with others at Cisco, coded the industry-first implementation of BGP/MPLS based Layer-3 VPN.

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## Preface

"Experience is the best teacher" is a valuable truism in network design, especially in designing a routed network using a protocol as widespread, and as little understood, as the Border Gateway Protocol (BGP). It's hard to grasp BGP at a high level, because network engineers tend to see only a small piece of the system they are interacting with—either their connection to the Internet, or their network backbone, or some other slice. From this perspective, it's hard to understand how BGP works in the real world, and what impact decisions in one small slice of the network will actually have in the larger internetwork.

How, for instance, does BGP express policy? And what is the difference between a routing protocol that expresses policy versus one that "just" provides routing information? When should I use BGP, and when should I not? What are the most common policy mechanisms used in BGP, and how are they expressed? What do I do when everything falls apart?

These, and many other questions, are the questions we set out to answer in this book. So, while this is a book about BGP, it's actually a book about network design and deployment. We hope, through this book, you can learn from our experience in deploying BGP, both our failures and our successes, in all types of environments, from small enterprise networks to large-scale service providers. In Practical BGP, you will find help in deciding where to use BGP and where not to, as well as techniques for designing, deploying, managing, and troubleshooting BGP networks.

We hope you enjoy the fruit of our labors and experience (and not just for its ability to put you to sleep).

Russ White

Danny McPherson

Sangli Srihari

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