



IBM Software Group Enterprise Networking Solutions
z/OS® V1R11 Communications Server

z/OS V1R11 Communications Server – system management and monitoring

z/OS Communications Server Development, Raleigh, North Carolina



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This presentation describes several enhancements to the Communications Server in z/OS V1R11 for system management and monitoring.

System management and monitoring

- Verbose ping
- IBM migration health checker for z/OS RFC4301 compliance
- IBM migration health checker for DNS usage

Systems management and monitoring includes several changes in z/OS V1R11 Communications Server. The ping command has been enhanced, and two migration health checks have been added.

Verbose ping

- z/OS ping has been made to look more like ping on other platforms.
 - A new verbose (or `-v`) option

```
USER1:/u/user1: >ping -v w3.ibm.com
CS V1R11: Pinging host w3.ibm.com (9.17.137.11)
with 256 bytes of ICMP data
ping #1 from 9.17.137.11: bytes=264 seq=1 ttl=242 time=56.64 ms
ping #2 from 9.17.137.11: bytes=264 seq=2 ttl=242 time=56.90 ms
ping #3 from 9.17.137.11: bytes=264 seq=3 ttl=242 time=57.96 ms
Ping statistics for w3.ibm.com (9.17.137.11)
    Packets: Sent=3, Received=3, Lost=0 (0% loss)
    Approximate round trip times in milliseconds:
    Minimum=56.64 ms, Maximum=57.96 ms, Average=57.17 ms, StdDev=0.70 ms
USER1:/u/user1: >
```

z/OS ping has been made to look like ping on most other platforms.

The new verbose or `-v` option will by default send three echo requests, calculate statistics for those three requests, and display the statistical summary as the response.

Migration health check for RFC 4301 compliance

- z/OS V1R10 announcement included this z/OS Communications Server statement of direction:

In a future release of z/OS, IBM intends to make RFC4301 compliance mandatory. RFC4301 "Security Architecture for the Internet Protocol" specifies the base architecture for IPSec-compliant systems, including restrictions on the routing of fragmented packets. In z/OS V1R10 RFC4301 compliance enforcement is an optional setting in the z/OS IPSec policy. Changing an IPSec policy from being non-compliant to compliant, may require minor changes to IP filters for IP traffic that is routed through z/OS. The Configuration Assistant for z/OS Communications Server includes functions to assist with identifying and making such changes.

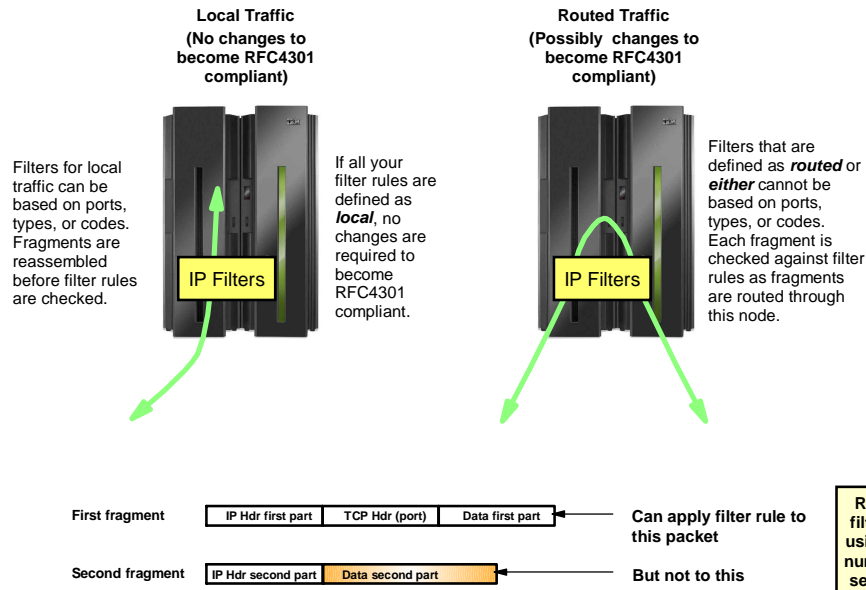
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In August 2008, when the availability of z/OS V1R10 was announced, there was a statement of direction included that talked about IPSec RFC4301 compliance.

In z/OS V1R10, Communications Server implemented support for an updated IPSec standard, RFC4301. That standard set some stricter rules for how to apply packet filters to packets that were routed through an IP node that used IP filters. In z/OS V1R10 and in z/OS V1R11, you have an option available that basically disables the check for RFC4301 compliance. This allows you to continue to use IP filters for routed traffic that is not in compliance with RFC4301.

The rationale for the switch was to allow affected customers time to change their IP filter rules. At some point in time (after z/OS V1R11), z/OS Communications Server intends to remove the switch, thus requiring IP filter rules to be in compliance with RFC4301. It is the general policy of z/OS Communications Server to stay in compliance with RFC standards. Customers are encouraged to also do so in this case.

What the RFC 4301 compliance option is about



The issue that was addressed by RFC4301 was that when IP packets are routed through an IP node, IP packet filters are applied to possible fragments of IP packets. If an IP packet has been fragmented in the network, only the first fragment will include a transport layer protocol header. Only the first fragment will have information about TCP or UDP and port number, or ICMP codes, and so forth.

If an IP Node applies filters to routed traffic, those filters cannot include transport layer information, but only refer to information that is available in the IP header itself.

“Real” firewalls will normally deal with this by being “state-full”. When the first fragment passes through, they will cache identification information from that first fragment. That way, they can match the fragments that follow to the cached information from the first fragment. z/OS Communications Server is not a state-full router – it will not remember any information from one fragment to the next when fragments are routed through z/OS. However, when the traffic starts or ends on z/OS, IP filtering is done before fragmentation of outbound traffic and after reassemble of inbound fragments. In those two cases, the full IP packet content is available for inspection.

Migration health check for BIND9 usage

- With the resolver caching in this release, the need for a DNS server on z/OS is expected to be very low
- Current plans are to issue a statement of direction about withdrawal of BIND9 DNS server functions in general

In a future release of z/OS, the BIND 9.2.0 function will be removed from the z/OS Communications Server component. Customers who currently use or plan to use the z/OS BIND 9.2.0 function as a caching-only name server should use the Resolver function, which will be available in z/OS V1.11, to cache DNS responses. Customers who currently use or plan to use the z/OS BIND 9.2.0 function as a primary or secondary authoritative name server should investigate using BIND on Linux® for System z®.

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Maintaining DNS BIND on z/OS requires z/OS Communications Server development and test resources that can be used for other networking functions on z/OS. It is expected that after the z/OS V1R11 system resolver cache function, the number of customers who will continue to have a need to run a DNS BIND server on z/OS is very low. The assumption is that the demand will decrease so that it likely can be addressed by locating the name server on another System z operating system, such as Linux on System z. DNS BIND is a component that is generally available on Linux.

This is a statement of direction. If z/OS Communications Server learns that this direction is not the direction a significant amount of customers want to move, z/OS Communications Server is open to other suggestions.

Otherwise, expect DNS BIND software to be removed from z/OS Communications Server within the next few years.

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