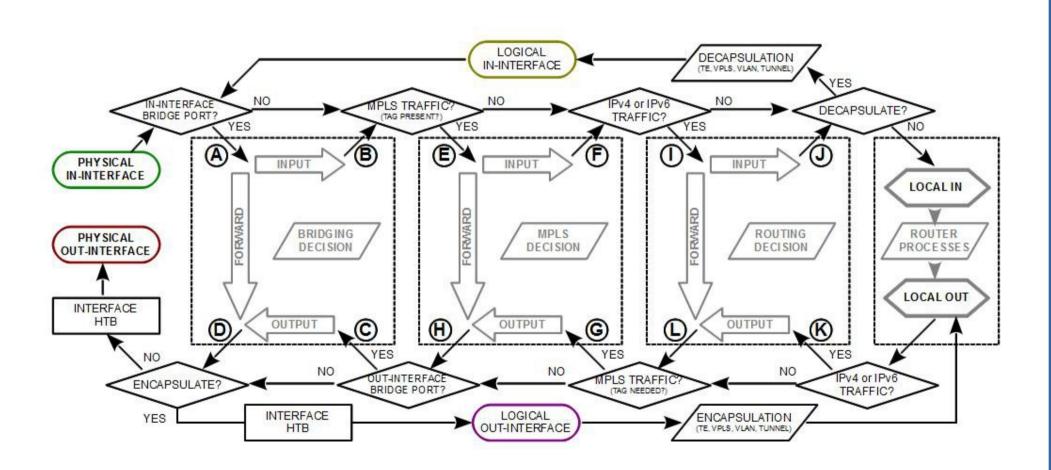
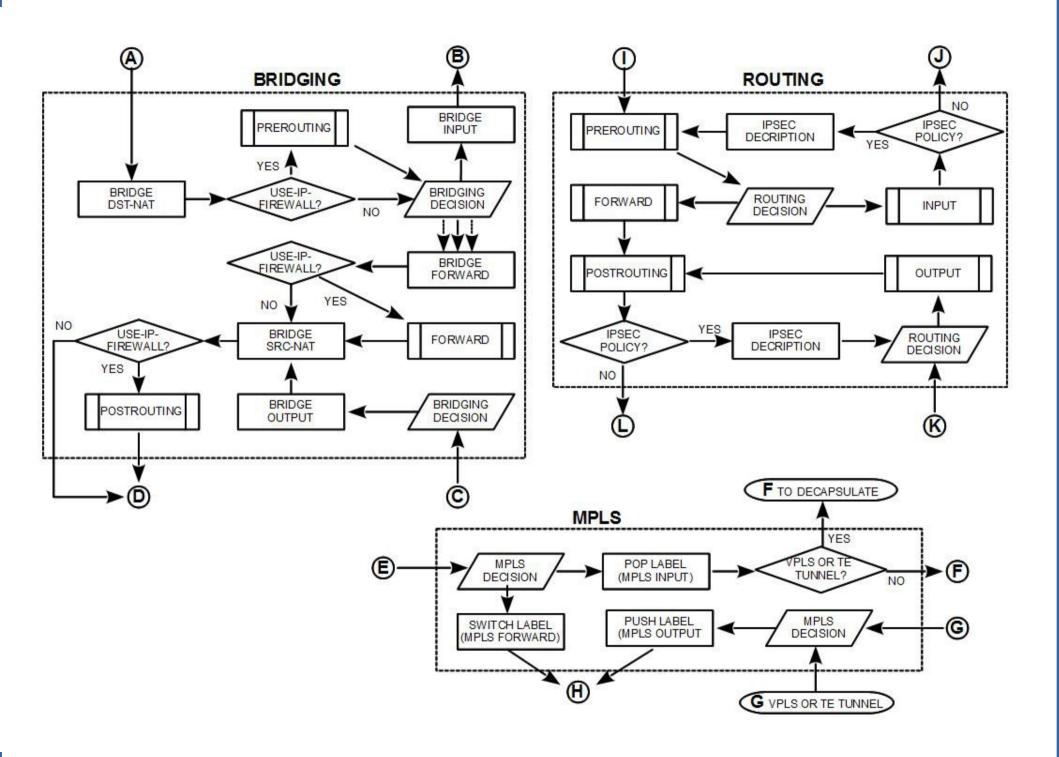
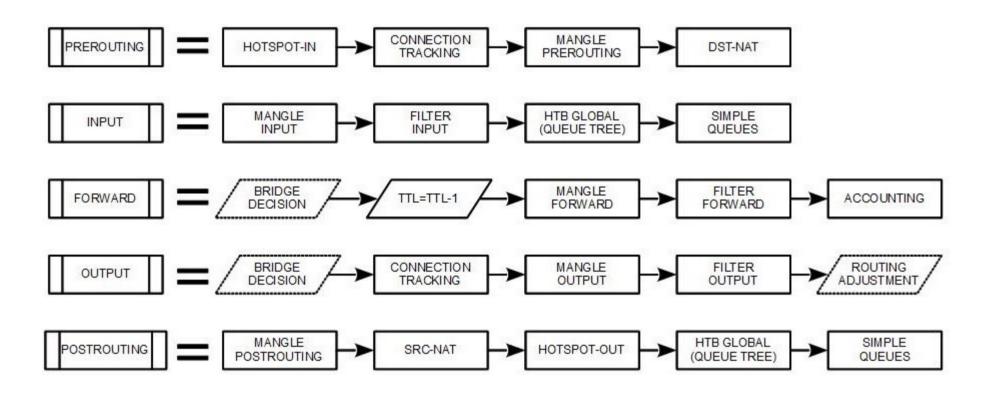


MikroTik RouterOS Packet Flow Diagram for version 6.x





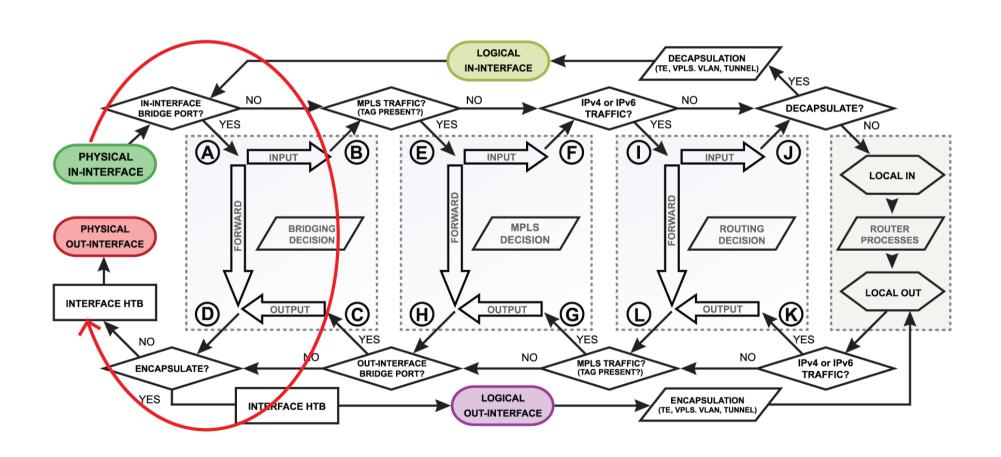
Yes, still - Packet Flow Diagram (page 3)



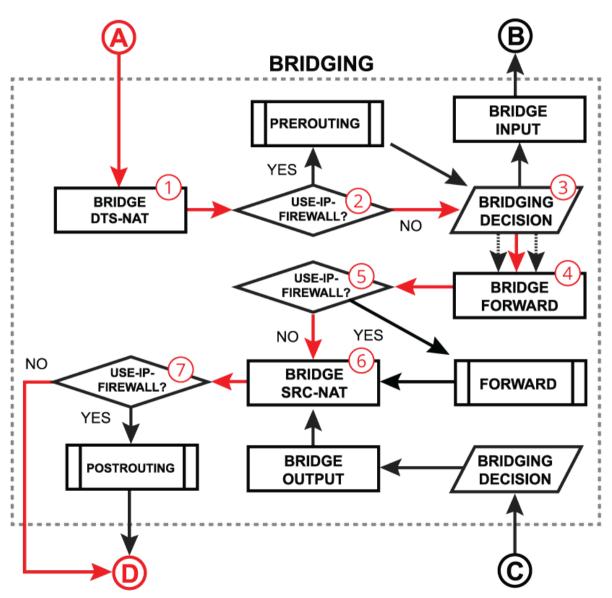
"SlowPath"

- "Slow Path" is the regular way packets are processed in RouterOS
- For each packet RouterOS has to check the whole path of the packet
- In some cases it is a considerable number of steps

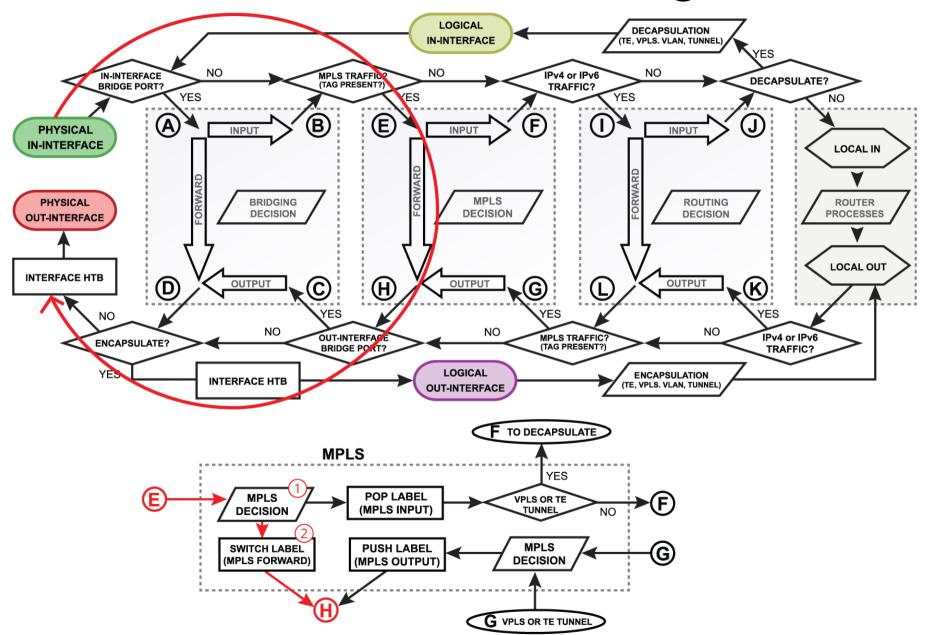
Bridge Forwarding



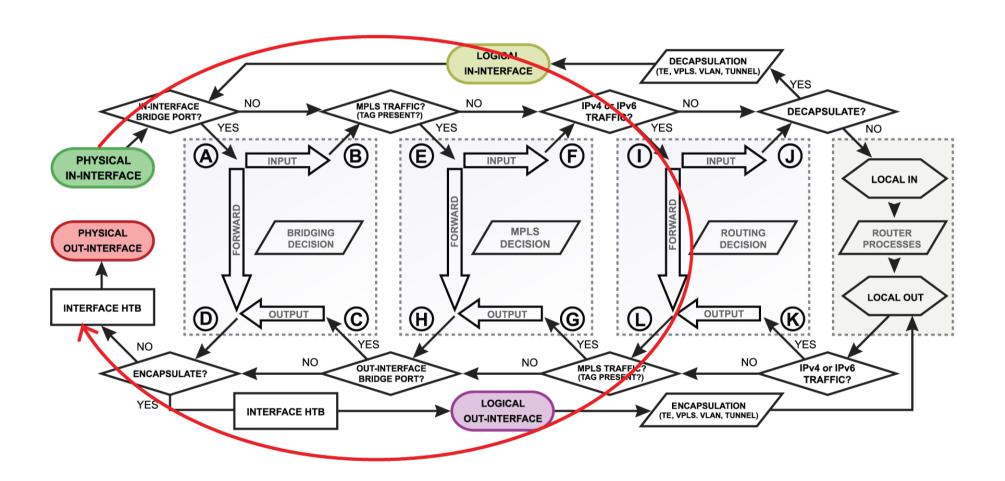
Bridge Forwarding



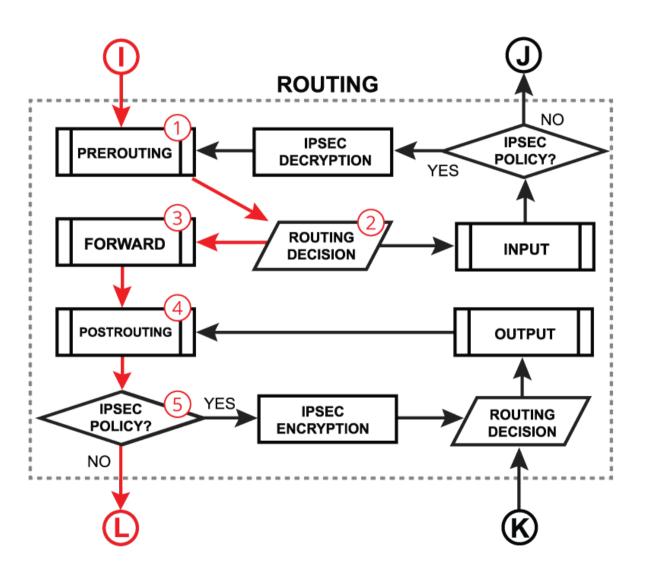
MPLS Forwarding



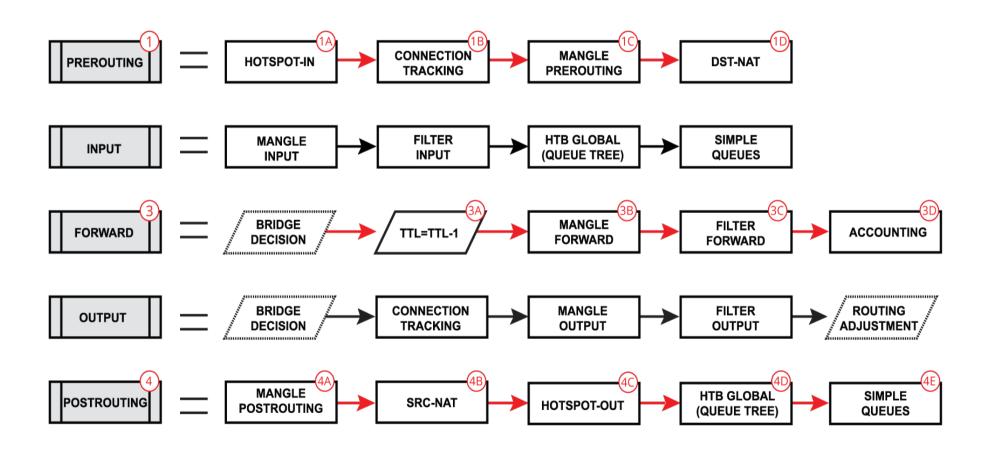
Routing Forwarding



Routing Forwarding



Routing Forwarding



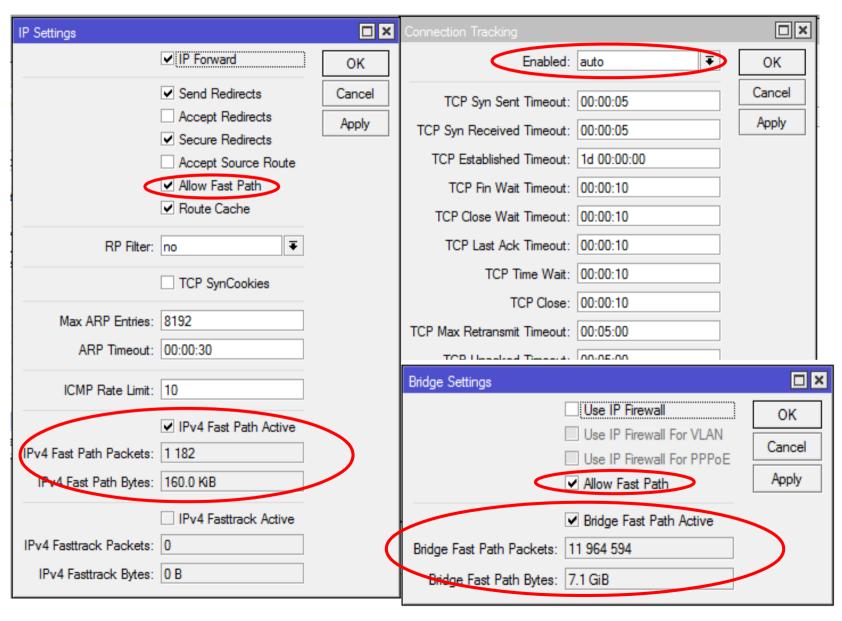
Initial FastPath Implementation

- FastPath is an interface driver extension, that allows you to receive/process/send traffic without unnecessary processing.
- Interface driver can now talk directly to specific RouterOS processes - skipping all others
- FastPath requirements
 - Interface driver support
 - FastPath should be allowed in configuration
 - No configuration in specific facilities.

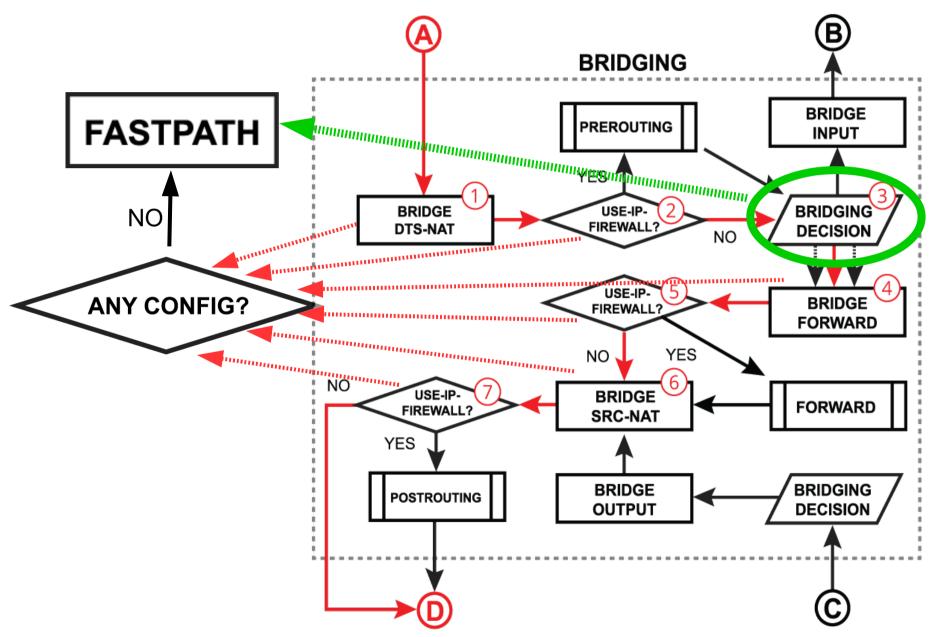
Driver Support

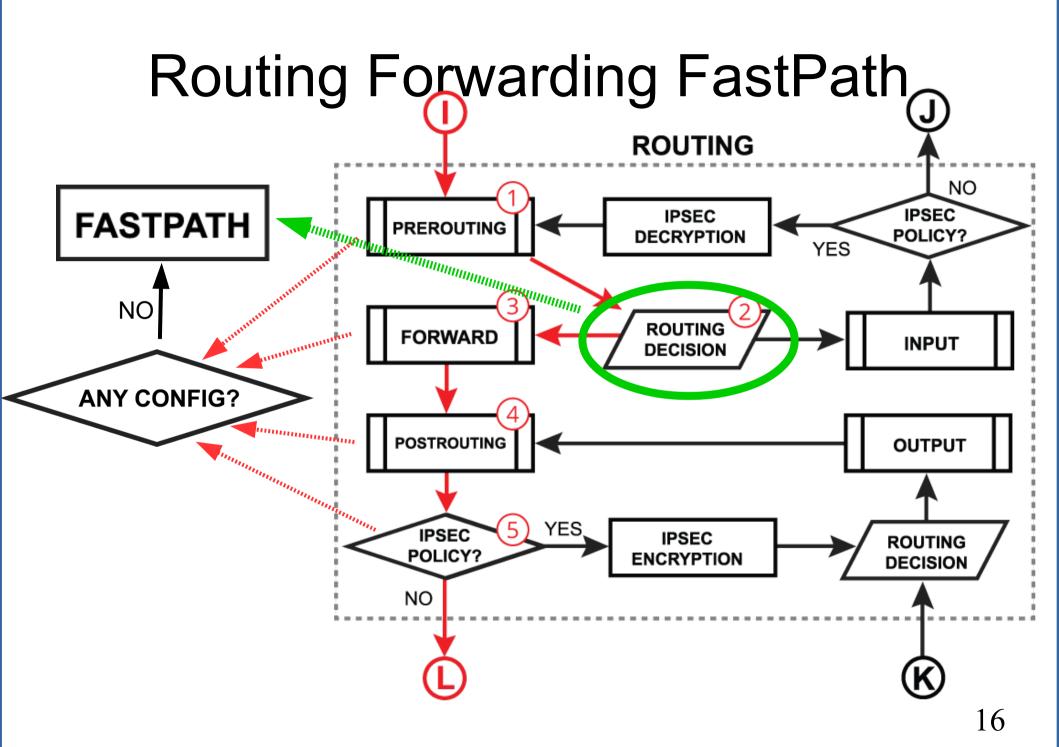
- CCR, CRS, RB7xx, RB9xx, hEX, hAP, wAP, cAP, mAP, SXT, LHG, Metal, Groove, DynaDish, OmniTIK, mANTBox series
 all ports
- RB1100 series ether1-11
- RB6xx series and RB800 ether1,2
- RB1000, RB3011, RB2011 all ports
- All Wireless interfaces, if wireless-cm2 or wireless-rep (or wireless-fp) package used

Allow FastPath

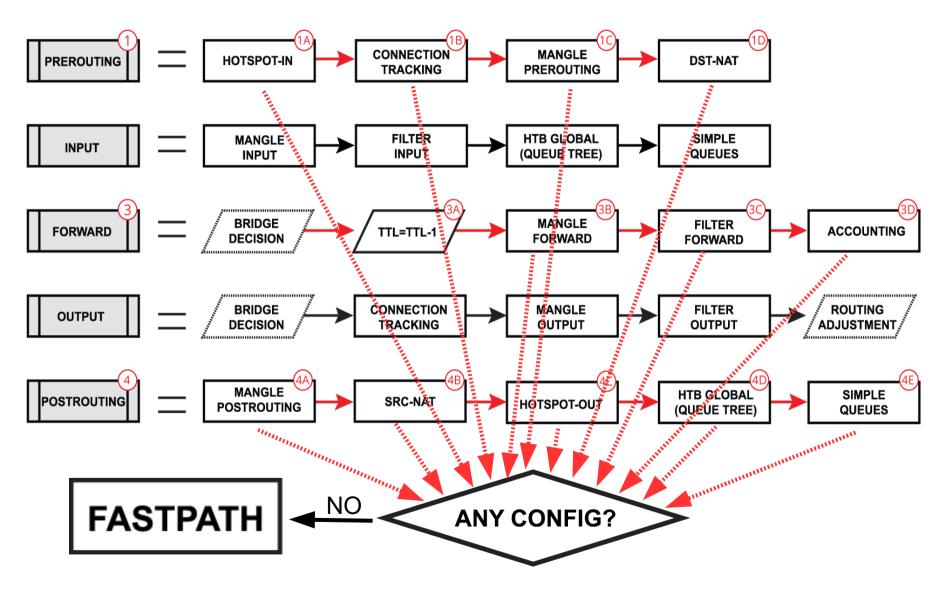


Bridge Forwarding FastPath





Routing Forwarding FastPath



SlowPath vs FastPath

 What are the performance benefits of regular FastPath?

RB750Gr2 720Mhz	All port test	RouterOS v6.31rc2

Mode	Configuration	64 byte		512 k	oyte	1518 byte	
	Configuration	kpps	Mbps	kpps	Mbps	kpps	Mbps
Bridging	none (fast path)	773.7	396.1	234.9	962.2	<u>81.2</u>	986.1
Bridging	25 bridge filter rules	114.6	58.7	112.3	460.0	<u>81.2</u>	986.1
Routing	none (fast path)	729.2	373.4	234.9	962.2	<u>81.2</u>	986.1
Routing	25 simple queues	184.8	94.6	178.4	730.7	81.2	986.1
Routing	25 ip filter rules	78.9	40.4	81.2	332.6	<u>81.2</u>	986.1

CCR1072 (1200Mhz, DDR1600) RouterOS v6.31rc2

Mode	Configuration	64 byte		512 byte		1518 byte	
		kpps	Mbps	kpps	Mbps	kpps	Mbps
Bridging	none (fast path)	<u>119,047.6</u>	60,952.4	<u>18,790.0</u>	76,963.8	6,502.0	78,960.3
Bridging	25 bridge filter rules	10,432.3	5,341.3	9,099.2	37,270.3	6,502.0	78,960.3
Routing	none (fast path)	94,668.4	48,470.2	<u>18,790.0</u>	76,963.8	6,502.0	78,960.3
Routing	25 simple queues	13,683.5	7,006.0	13,500.0	55,296.0	6,502.0	78,960.3
Routing	25 ip filter rules	6,104.0	3,125.2	6,125.5	25,090.0	5,247.6	63,726.9

FastPath for Features

- Traffic Generator (since v6.0) the only way to simulate FastPath speeds
- MAC-Winbox (since v6.33) doesn't disable FastPath anymore
- MAC-Telnet (since v6.33) doesn't disable FastPath anymore
- Traffic Flow (since v6.33) can see FastPath traffic also
- Connection Tracking (since v6.29)*

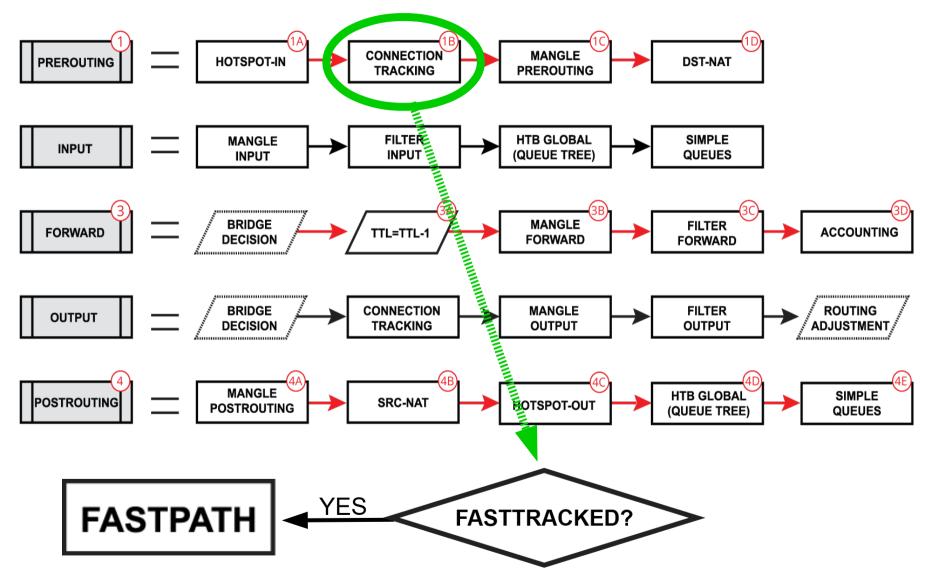
FastPath + Conntrack

- Conntrack entries now have "Fasttracked" flag
- Implemented as "fasttrack-connection" action for firewall filter/mangle
- Packets from "Fasttracked" connections are allowed to travel in FastPath
- Works only with IPv4/TCP and IPv4/UDP
- Traffic traveling in FastPath will be invisible to other router facilities (firewall, queues, etc)
- Some packets will still follow the regular path to maintain conntrack entries

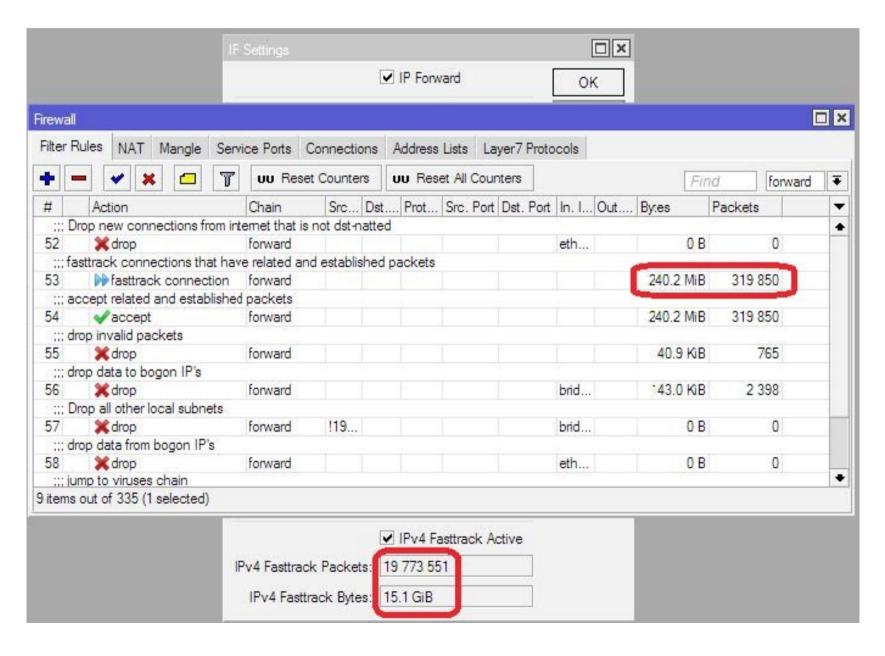
FastPath + Conntrack = FastTrack

Firewall								
Filter Rule	es NAT I	Mangle Serv	rice Ports Con	nections Address Lists	Layer7 Protocols			
–	Trackin	ng						Find
	Protocol	Timeout	TCP State	Orig./Repl. Rate	Orig./Repl. Bytes	Orig./Repl. Packets	Orig./Repl. Fasttrack Bytes	Orig./Repl. Fasttrack Packets ▽
SACFs	6 (tcp)	1d 00:04:02	established	54.4 kbps/1546.4 kbps	141.0 MiB/3662.3 MiB	2 737 217/2 717	141.0 MiB/3662.1 MiB	2 737 213/2 716 883
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:05:01		1984 bps/34.6 kbps	3107.7 KiB/6.5 MiB	9 070/10 870	3107.1 KiB/6.5 MiB	9 068/10 869
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:04:33		0 bps/0 bps	2653.7 KiB/3491.0 KiB	6 630/5 828	2653.3 KiB/3490.9 KiB	6 628/5 826
SACFs	17 (udp)	00:04:51		0 bps/0 bps	445.5 KiB/50.6 KiB	4 842/477	445.0 KiB/50.2 KiB	4 836/474
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:04:55		0 bps/0 bps	858.6 KiB/3085.5 KiB	4 711/4 608	858.3 KiB/3085.4 KiB	4 709/4 607
SACFs	17 (udp)	00:05:03		39.7 kbps/3.6 kbps	2856.8 KiB/507.5 KiB	4 566/3 922	2856.3 KiB/507.4 KiB	4 564/3 921
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:01:52		0 bps/0 bps	1997.0 KiB/2866.6 KiB	4 536/4 754	1996.3 KiB/2866.6 KiB	4 534/4 753
SACFs	6 (tcp)	1d 00:03:32	established	0 bps/0 bps	922.7 KiB/367.4 KiB	4 406/4 659	920.3 KiB/366.9 KiB	4 399/4 649
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:01:43		0 bps/0 bps	262.7 KiB/1607.1 KiB	4 260/2 618	262.3 KiB/1607.1 KiB	4 258/2 617
SACFs	17 (udp)	00:05:02		0 bps/0 bps	518.4 KiB/188.6 KiB	4 254/1 632	517.8 KiB/187.8 KiB	4 248/1 622
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:05:03		3.1 kbps/39.5 kbps	1066.7 KiB/3245.1 KiB	3 977/5 265	1066.3 KiB/3245.0 KiB	3 975/5 264
SACFd	6 (tcp)	00:00:00	time wait	0 bps/0 bps	232.7 KiB/2113.2 KiB	3 546/3 540	232.5 KiB/2113.1 KiB	3 541/3 537
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:02:15		0 bps/0 bps	212.9 KiB/1922.1 KiB	3 154/3 048	212.7 KiB/1921.8 KiB	3 152/3 047
SACFd	6 (tcp)	1d 23:59:02	established	6.6 kbps/38.0 kbps	217.6 KiB/1869.3 KiB	3 103/4 144	217.5 KiB/1869.3 KiB	3 101/4 143
SACFs _	6 (tcp)	1d 23:59:03	established	37.0 kbps/3.4 kbps	1093.6 KiB/75.3 KiB	2 614/1 111	1093.5 KiB/75.2 KiB	2 611/1 110
SACFd S	- seen reply	, A - assured,	C - confirmed, F	-fasttrack, d - dstnat	155.3 KiB/1588.4 KiB	2 504/1 973	154.9 KiB/1588.4 KiB	2 502/1 972
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:04:48		0 bps/0 bps	162.5 KiB/1670.8 KiB	2 483/2 732	162.0 KiB/1670.7 KiB	2 480/2 730
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:05:00		2.3 kbps/45.6 kbps	153.6 KiB/1617.9 KiB	2 436/2 701	153.3 KiB/1617.8 KiB	2 434/2 700
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:05:02		992 bps/32.9 kbps	222.0 KiB/1548.0 KiB	2 133/2 608	221.7 KiB/1547.9 KiB	2 131/2 607
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:03:13		0 bps/0 bps	136.6 KiB/1350.7 KiB	2 063/2 243	136.3 KiB/1350.7 KiB	2 061/2 242
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:00:31		0 bps/0 bps	134.3 KiB/1451.4 KiB	2 029/2 316	134.0 KiB/1451.3 KiB	2 027/2 315
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:05:01		3.2 kbps/39.5 kbps	121.1 KiB/1547.2 KiB	1 878/2 379	120.6 KiB/1547.2 KiB	1 876/2 378
SACFd	17 (udp)	00:05:01		1984 bps/34.3 kbps	119.3 KiB/1259.9 KiB	1 832/2 100	118.7 KiB/1259.8 KiB	1 829/2 098
SACFs	6 (tcp)	1d 23:59:02	established	34.0 kbps/4.2 kbps	1156.8 KiB/108.4 KiB	1 824/1 777	1156.8 KiB/108.4 KiB	1 822/1 776
SACFd	6 (tcp)	00:00:00	time wait	0 bos/0 bos	113.1 KiB/1859.6 KiB	1 814/2 089	112.9 KiB/1859.5 KiB	1 810/2 086
991 items	out of 978 (1 selected)		Max Entries:	218032			

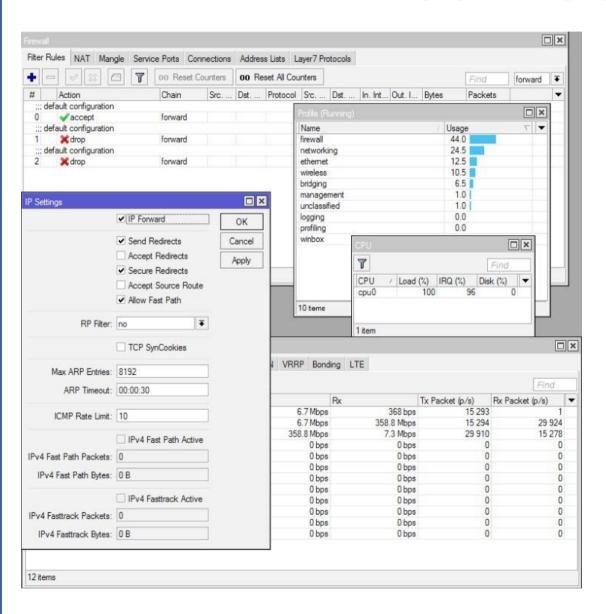
Routing Forwarding FastPath



Fasttrack-Connection

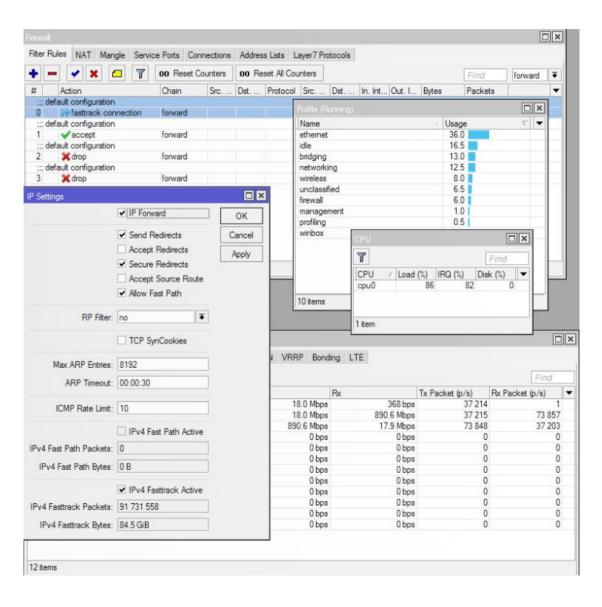


Without Fasttrack



- Board: RB2011UiAS-2HnD
- Configuration: default Home AP
- Throughput: 358Mbps
- CPU load: 100%
- Firewall CPU load:
 44%

With Fasttrack

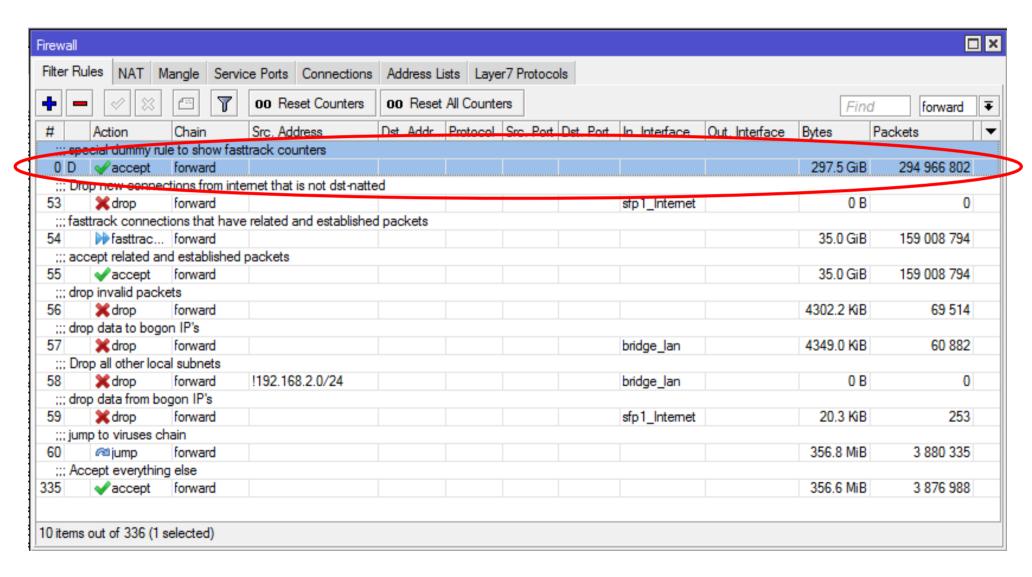


- Board: RB2011UiAS-2HnD
- Configuration: default Home AP
- Throughput: 890Mbps
- CPU load: 86%
- Firewall CPU load: 6%

Fasttrack-connection

- "fasttrack-connection" action works similar to "mark-connection" action
- "fasttrack-connection" rule is usually followed by identical "accept" rule
- Most common Fasttrack implementations :
 - Fasttrack if connection reach connectionstate=established and related
 - Fasttrack to exclude some specific connections from the queues
 - Fasttrack all local connections

Special Dummy Rules

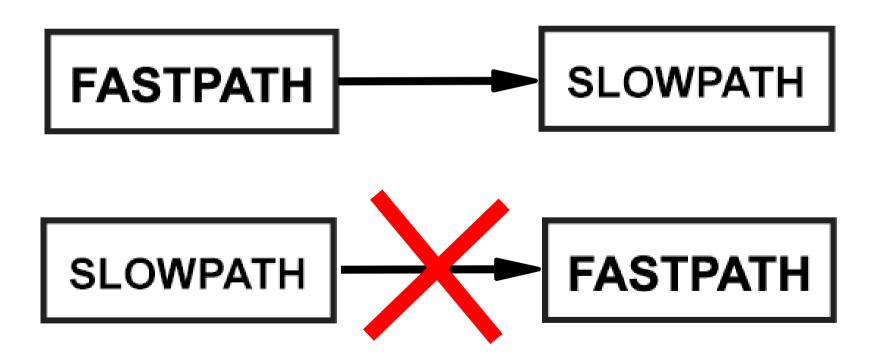


Special Dummy Rule

- This is not an actual rule, it is for visual information only
- Dummy rule shows user that some traffic traveling in FastPath and will not reach their firewall rules
- Rule will show up as soon as there are at least one "Fasttracked" connection tracking entry
- Rule will disappear only after last "Fasttracked" connection tracking table are fully timed out
- Dummy simple queue possible in future

Half-FastPath

 What if an interface driver doesn't have FastPath support?

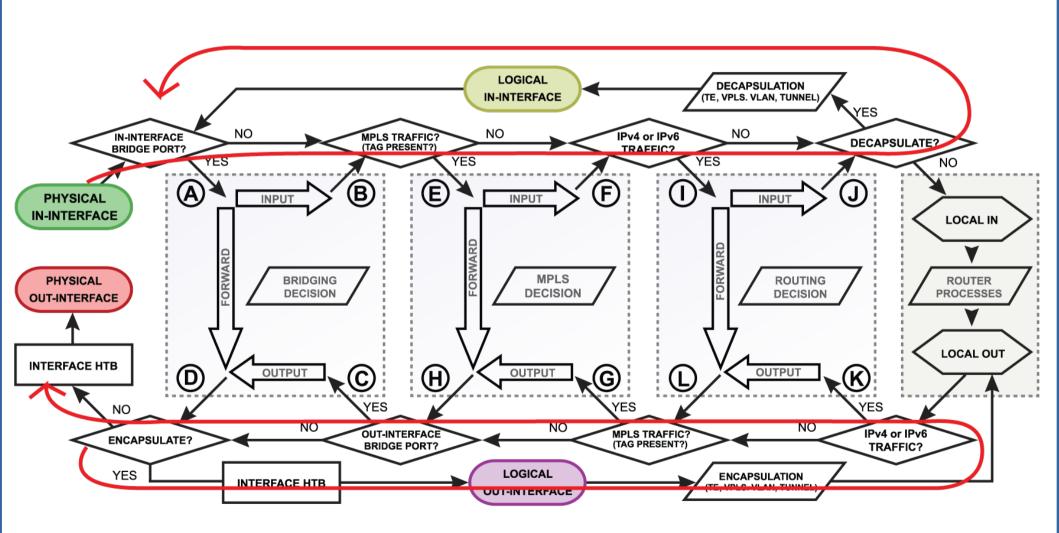


FastPath for Logical Interfaces

FastPath is supported for these logical interfaces (without encryption and no fragmentation)

- Bridge (since v6.29)
- VLAN (since v6.30)
- VRRP (since v6.30)
- Bonding RX only (since v6.30)
- EOIP, GRE, IPIP (since v6.33)
- PPPoE client (since v6.35)
- L2TP (since v6.35) (PPPoE client + L2TP = LNS)

Logical Interfaces in RouterOS



PPPoE FastPath Performance

Without fragmentation and encryption

Setup: CCR1036<---10G--->CCR1036

In kpps

Conntrack	FastPath	Version	Packet size				
Commack			64B	512B	1024B	1280B	
No	N/A	6.7	294.8	305.4	302.3	305.3	
No	N/A	6.8rc1	5,519.3	4,634.2	2,378.9	<u>1,913.1</u>	
No	FastPath	6.35rc34	26,065.1	4,634.2	<u>2,378.9</u>	<u>1,913.1</u>	
Yes	N/A	6.7	277.2	260.4	192.3	183.9	
Yes	N/A	6.8rc1	2,730.6	2,462.7	2,103.6	1,910.6	
Yes	No	6.35rc34	3,065.6	3,001.7	2,378.9	<u>1,913.1</u>	
Yes	Fasttrack	6.35rc34	12,379.1	4,634.2	<u>2,378.9</u>	<u>1,913.1</u>	

EOIP, GRE, IPIP, L2TP and FastPath

- Per interface "allow-fast-path" setting
- Packet fragments and encrypted traffic can't be received in FastPath
- Traffic traveling in FastPath will be invisible to other router facilities (firewall, queues, etc)
- It is important to prepare your configuration (firewall, queues) for SlowPath part of tunnel traffic.

L2TP FastPath Performance

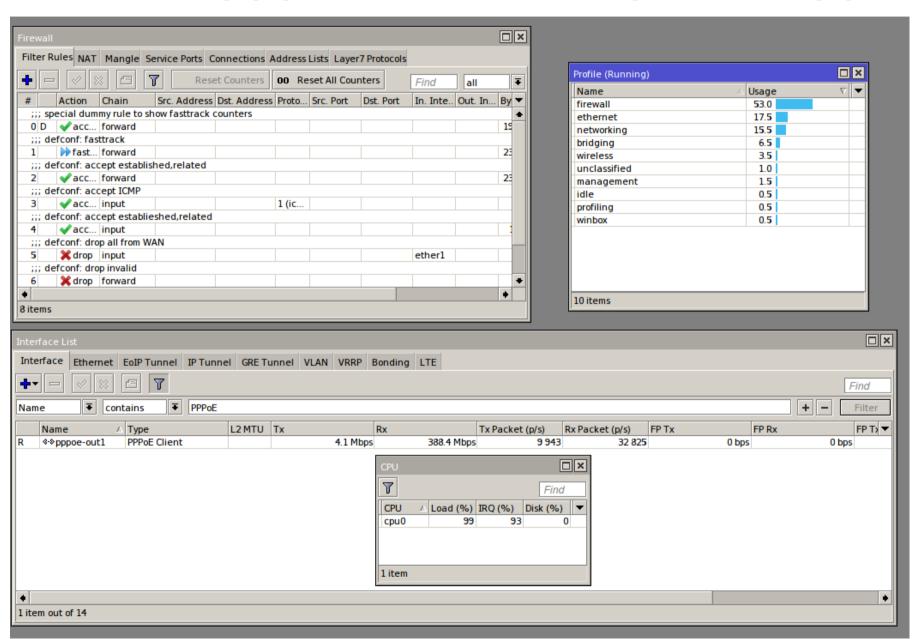
Without fragmentation and encryption

Setup: CCR1036<---10G--->CCR1036

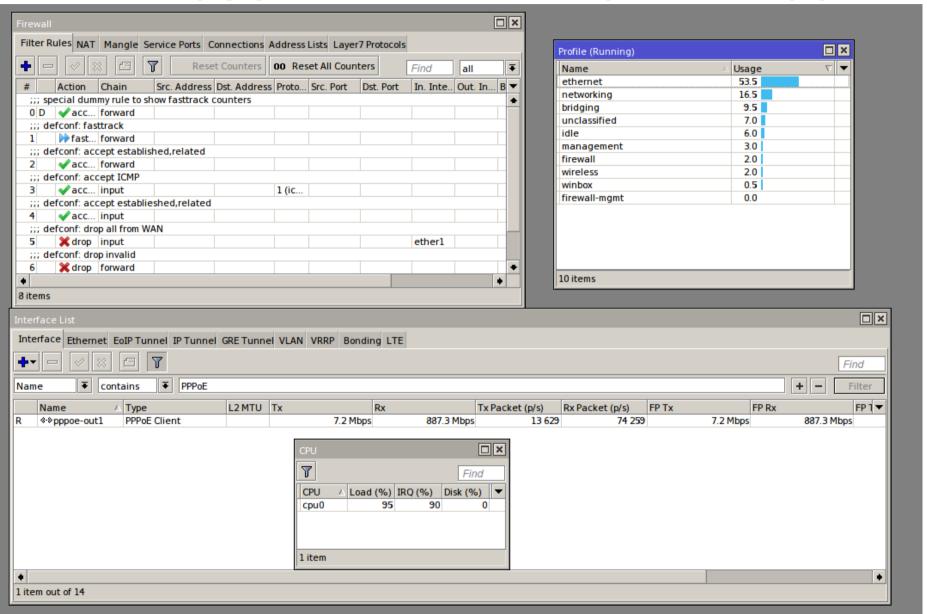
In kpps

Conntrack	FastPath	Version	Packet size				
Commutack			64B	512B	1024B	1280B	
No	N/A	6.7	120.9	123.4	197.5	197.8	
No	N/A	6.8rc1	3,708.6	3,522.1	2,312.6	<u>1,869.8</u>	
No	FastPath	6.35rc34	19,645.0	4,385.4	<u>2,312.6</u>	<u>1,869.8</u>	
Yes	N/A	6.7	98.1	105.4	103.2	101.5	
Yes	N/A	6.8rc1	1,687.1	1,580.9	1,382.3	1,302.8	
Yes	No	6.35rc34	2,379.5	2,320.3	2,156.8	<u>1,869.8</u>	
Yes	Fasttrack	6.35rc34	8,109.3	4,385.4	<u>2,312.6</u>	<u>1,869.8</u>	

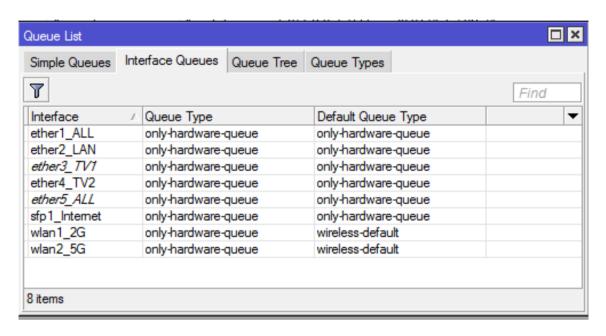
Without pppoe-client Fastpath Support



With pppoe-client Fastpath Support

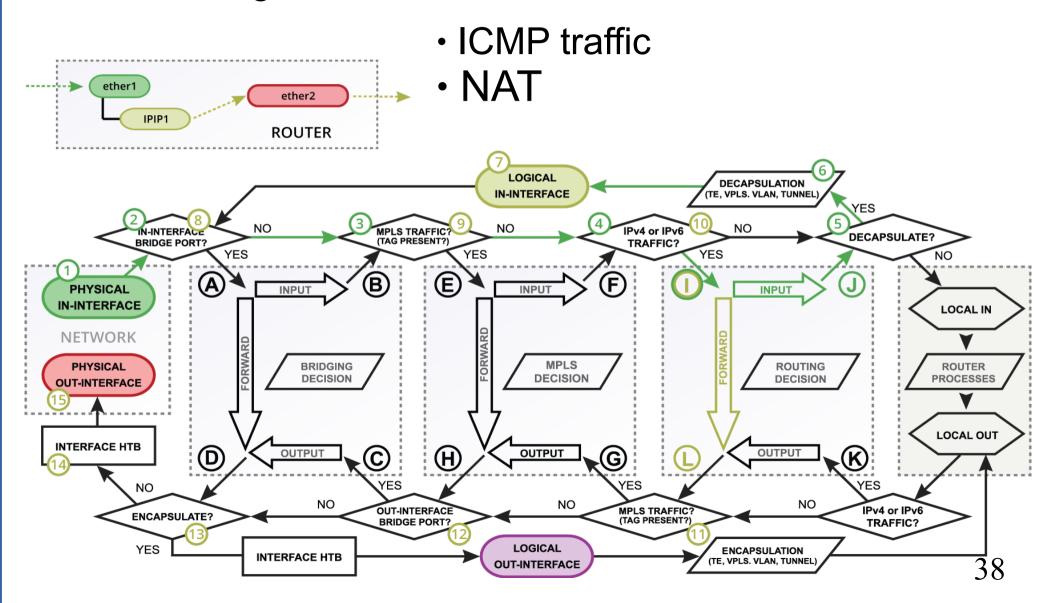


Interface Queue and FastPath

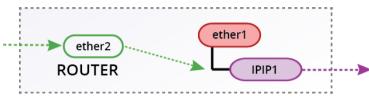


- Only interface queue that guarantees FastPath is "only-hardware-queue"
- Minimal impact on performance, as "Interface HTB" is the last step in the packet flow diagram

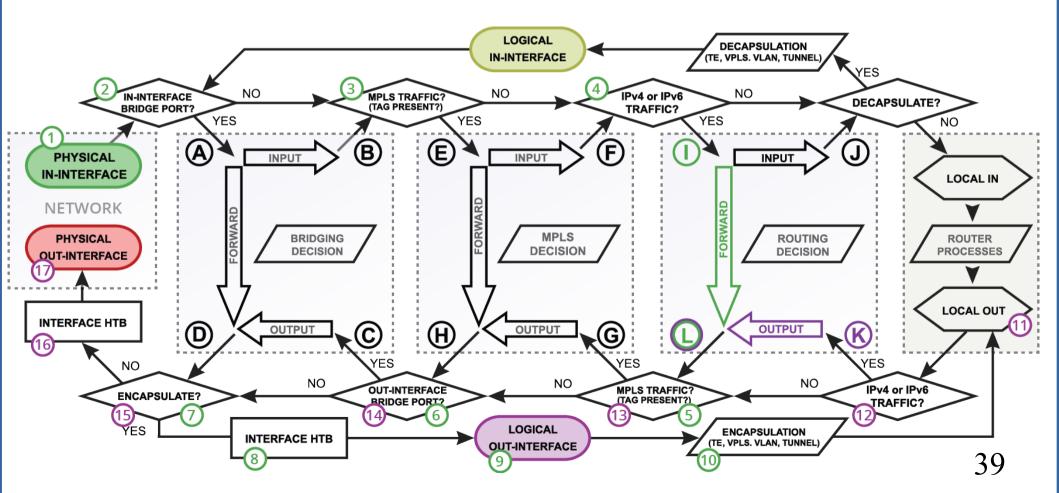
- ether1 and ether2 have FastPath support
- IPIP1 "allow-fast-path" setting enabled
- IP forwarding FastPath allowed

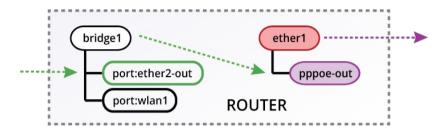


- ether1 and ether2 have FastPath support
- IPIP1 "allow-fast-path" setting disabled
- IP forwarding FastPath allowed

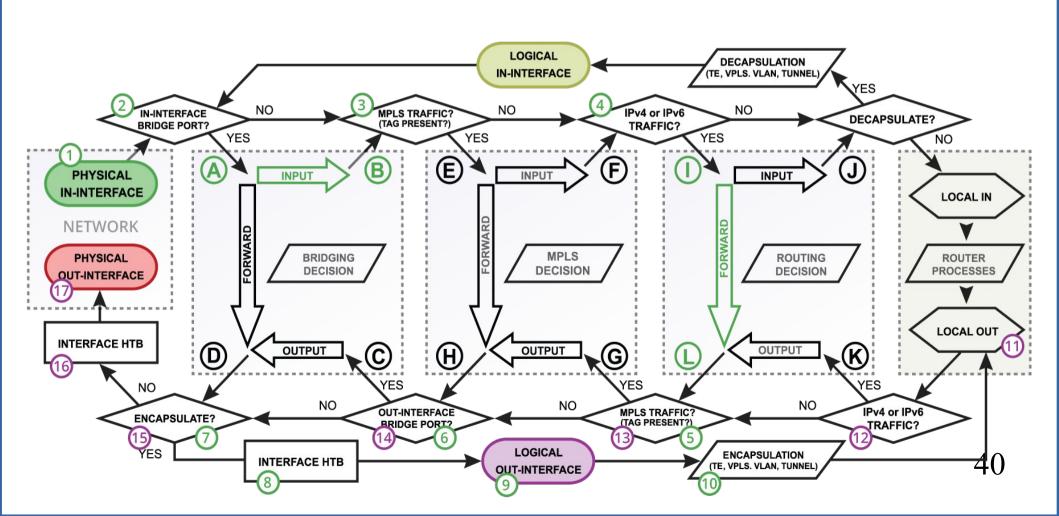


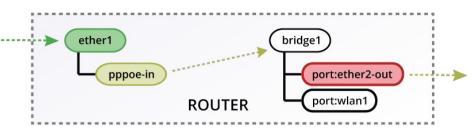
- TCP "FastTraked" connection
- Simple queues



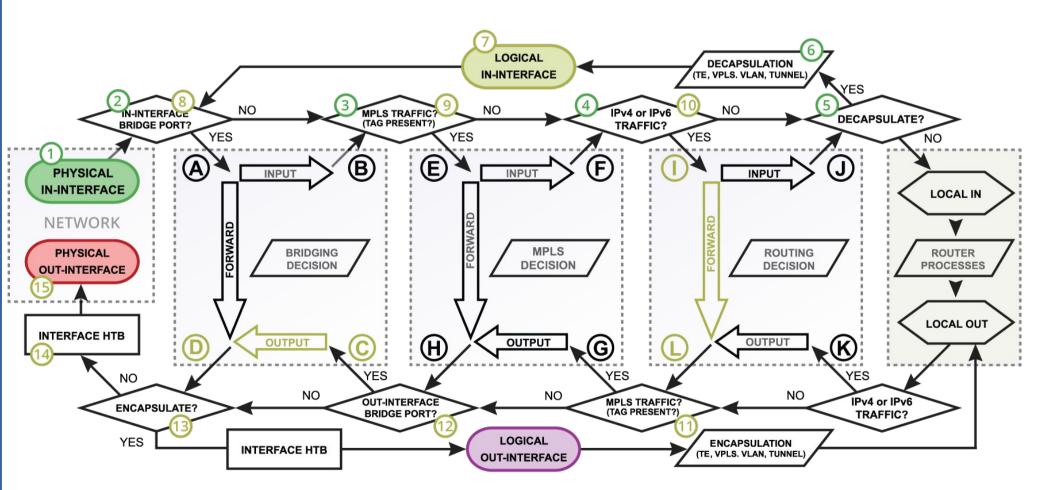


- ether1 and ether2-out have FastPath support
- IP forwarding FastPath allowed
- IPv6/TCP connection





- ether1 and ether2-out have FastPath support
- IP forwarding FastPath allowed
- "FastTracked" TCP connection



Bottom Line

- FastPath is a feature that allows you to reduce CPU load in specific configurations
- You trade some RouterOS functionality for performance
- Packet fragments can't use FastPath, so plan your network's MTU/MSS carefully
- Core thing needed for FastPath is interface driver support, without it there is no FastPath and no FastTracked connections.

Questions!!!