Alibaba Cloud

Express Connect Virtual Border Router

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Document conventions

Style	Description	Example
A Danger	A danger notice indicates a situation that will cause major system changes, faults, physical injuries, and other adverse results.	Danger: Resetting will result in the loss of user configuration data.
O Warning	A warning notice indicates a situation that may cause major system changes, faults, physical injuries, and other adverse results.	Warning: Restarting will cause business interruption. About 10 minutes are required to restart an instance.
C) Notice	A caution notice indicates warning information, supplementary instructions, and other content that the user must understand.	Notice: If the weight is set to 0, the server no longer receives new requests.
? Note	A note indicates supplemental instructions, best practices, tips, and other content.	Note: You can use Ctrl + A to select all files.
>	Closing angle brackets are used to indicate a multi-level menu cascade.	Click Settings> Network> Set network type.
Bold	Bold formatting is used for buttons , menus, page names, and other UI elements.	Click OK.
Bold Courier font	Bold formatting is used for buttons , menus, page names, and other UI elements.	Click OK . Run the cd /d C:/window command to enter the Windows system folder.
Bold Courier font <i>Italic</i>	Bold formatting is used for buttons , menus, page names, and other UI elements.Courier font is used for commandsItalic formatting is used for parameters and variables.	Click OK. Run the cd /d C:/window command to enter the Windows system folder. bae log listinstanceid <i>Instance_ID</i>
Bold Courier font <i>Italic</i> [] or [a b]	Bold formatting is used for buttons , menus, page names, and other UI elements.Courier font is used for commandsItalic formatting is used for parameters and variables.This format is used for an optional value, where only one item can be selected.	Click OK. Run the cd /d C:/window command to enter the Windows system folder. bae log listinstanceid <i>Instance_ID</i> ipconfig [-all -t]

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1.What is a VBR?

Virtual border routers (VBRs) are an abstraction of Express Connect circuits that are isolated and virtualized by using the Layer 3 overlay and vSwitch technologies in the Software Defined Network (SDN) architecture. A VBR is deployed between a customer-premises equipment (CPE) and a virtual private cloud (VPC) to exchange data between the VPC and data center.

Note Similar to VPC routers, each VBR manages a route table. You can add routes to the route table of a VBR to control network traffic forwarding.

Features

A VBR provides the following features:

- Exchanges data between a VPC and a data center.
- Determines the type of virtual interface of an Express Connect circuit: Layer 3 router interface or Layer 3 VLAN subinterface.
- Adds or identifies VLAN tags if a Layer 3 VLAN subint erface is used.
- Supports Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) routing.
 - BGP is a dynamic routing protocol based on Transmission Control Protocol (TCP). BGP is used to exchange routing and network accessibility information across autonomous systems. When you create a connection over an Express Connect circuit, you can configure BGP routing between your data center and the associated VBR. This way, the data center and the VBR can communicate with each other through a private connection. This helps you to set up a hybrid cloud with higher efficiency, flexibility, and security.
 - VBRs support BGP dynamic routing in both IPv4 and IPv6 networks.

Limits

- VBRs do not support source address-specific policy-based routes.
- Each VBR has one and only one route table.
- VBRs support only BGP-4.
- You can create at most eight BGP peers for each VBR.
- Each BGP peer supports at most 110 dynamic routes. Routes are denied when the upper limit is exceeded.
- To configure BGP when you connect to a VPC, you must specify an Autonomous System Number (ASN) for the VPC. The ASN that you specify must be different from the ASNs of the vSwitches in the VPC.

2.Create a VBR

After an Express Connect circuit is enabled, you must create a virtual border router (VBR) for the Express Connect circuit. The VBR is used to route traffic between the virtual private cloud (VPC) and the data center that are connected through the Express Connect circuit.

Context

A VBR is a router deployed between a VPC and customer-premises equipment (CPE) in a data center. Each VBR is associated with a route table. You can add routes to the route table of a VBR to control network traffic forwarding. A VBR provides the following features:

- Exchanges data between a VPC and a data center.
- Determines the type of virtual interface of an Express Connect circuit: Layer 3 router interface or Layer 3 Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) subinterface.

Adds or identifies VLAN tags if a Layer 3 VLAN subinterface is used.

• Supports Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) routing.

Create a VBR

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4. In the Create VBR panel, set the following parameters and click OK.

Parameter	Description
Account	Specify whether to create a VBR for the current or another Alibaba Cloud account. By default, Current account is selected. If you use the default setting, the VBR that you create belongs to the account with which you are logged on.
Name	Enter a name for the VBR.
Physical Connection Interface	Select the type of Express Connect circuit to be associated with the VBR. Then, select an Express Connect circuit is installed and enabled from the drop-down list.
	Valid types:
	• Dedicated Physical Connection: a dedicated Express Connect circuit
	• Shared Physical Connection: a shared Express Connect circuit

Parameter	Description
VLAN ID	 Enter the VLAN ID of the VBR. Valid values: 0 to 2999. Description of VLAN IDs: If the VLAN ID is set to 0, the switch port of the VBR is a Layer 3 router interface instead of a VLAN interface. When a Layer 3 router interface is used, each Express Connect circuit corresponds to a VBR. If the VLAN ID is set to a value from 1 to 2999, the switch port of the VBR is a Layer 3 VLAN subinterface. When a Layer 3 VLAN subinterface is used, each VLAN ID corresponds to a VBR. In this case, the Express Connect circuit with which the VBR is associated can be used to connect to VPCs that belong to different Alibaba Cloud accounts. VBRs in different VLANs are isolated from each other at Layer 2. Before you set this parameter, take note of the following rules: To set a VLAN ID for a dedicated connection over an Express Connect circuit, make sure that the Layer 2 or Layer 3 devices that are used to connect the Express Connect circuit, VBR, and gateway device in the data center have trunking enabled. This way, data can be transmitted from and to the VLAN based on the specified ID. The VLAN ID that you specify is preserved in the packets sent to the destination VLAN and not modified during data transmission. If trunking is disabled, the connection may fail. We recommend that you set VLAN ID to <i>0</i> unless your connectivity provider has specific rules or limits on the VLAN ID configuration. You do not need to specify a VLAN ID when you create a VBR for a hosted connection. The VLAN ID is already configured. Therefore, ignore the VLAN ID parameter.
Set VBR Bandwidth Value	Set the maximum bandwidth of the VBR. You do not need to set this parameter when you create a VBR for a hosted connection. The bandwidth is already configured when the hosted connection is created.
Peer IPv4 Address of Gateway at Alibaba Cloud Side	Specify an IPv4 address for the VBR to route network traffic between the VPC and data center. Peer IPv4 Address of Gateway at Alibaba Cloud Side and Peer IPv4 Address of Gateway at Customer Side must belong to the same CIDR block.
Peer IPv4 Address of Gateway at Customer Side	 Specify an IPv4 address for the gateway device in the data center to route network traffic between the VPC and data center. Note To allow services in the VPC to access a specified gateway IP address, you must add a route to the route table of the VBR. Set the destination CIDR block to the CIDR block to which the specified gateway IP address belongs and the next hop to the Express Connect circuit. For more information about how to add a route, see Add a custom route.
Subnet Mask (IPv4 Address)	Enter the subnet mask of the specified IPv4 addresses. You can enter a longer subnet mask because only two IP addresses are required.

Parameter	Description
	Specify whether to enable IPv6. IPv6 is disabled by default. To use this feature, .
	• Disable : disables IPv6. This is the default setting.
	• Enable : enables IPv6. After you enable IPv6, you cannot disable this feature. Set the following parameters of the VBR:
Support IPv6	Peer IPv6 Address of Gateway at Alibaba Cloud Side: Specify an IPv6 address for the VBR to route network traffic between the VPC and data center. Peer IPv6 Address of Gateway at Alibaba Cloud Side and Peer IPv6 Address of Gateway at Customer Side must belong to the same CIDR block.
	Peer IPv6 Address of Gateway at Customer Side: Enter an IPv6 address for the gateway device in the data center to route network traffic between the VPC and data center.
	 Subnet Mask (IPv6 Address): Enter the subnet mask of the specified IPv6 addresses.

Purchase VBRs after the free VBR quota is exhausted

When your free VBR quota is exhausted, you can choose to purchase VBRs.

? Note Before you purchase VBRs for your account, you must to acquire the permissions.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4. In the Create VBR panel, set the following parameters and click OK.
- 5. In the Warn message, click buy.
- 6. On the buy page, set the parameters of the VBR, click **Buy Now**, and then complete the payment.
 - **Region**: Use the default value for this parameter.
 - Bandwidth: Specify the maximum bandwidth of the VBR.
 - Quantity: Specify the number of VBRs that you want to purchase.
 - **Duration**: Specify the subscription duration. To prevent service interruptions caused by overdue payments, we recommend that you enable **Auto-renewal**.

You can also renew VBRs on the details page of the associated Express Connect circuit. For more information, see Manage renewal.

After you complete the payment, you can choose **Expenses > Orders** in the top navigation bar to view the order details. VBR names are displayed in the pconn-*\${vbrld}* format. *vbrld* indicates the VBR ID. For example, if the name is pconn-vbr-uf6ql2vm2avp****, the ID of the VBR is vbr-uf6ql2vm2avp****.

Modify the maximum bandwidth of a VBR

You can modify the maximum bandwidth of a free VBR.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4. On the details page of the Express Connect circuit that you want to manage, choose : >

Bandwidth Settings in the Actions column.

5. In the Bandwidth Settings panel, specify Bandwidth Cap and click OK.

Modify the configuration of a VBR

1.

- 2.
- 3. On the Virtual Border Routers (VBRs) page, find the VBR that you want to manage and click Modify in the Actions column.
- 4. To modify the VBR, set the following parameters and click **OK**.

Parameter	Description
VLAN ID	 Enter the VLAN ID of the VBR. Valid values: 0 to 2999. If the VLAN ID is set to 0, the switch port of the VBR is a Layer 3 router interface instead of a VLAN interface. When a Layer 3 router interface is used, each Express Connect circuit corresponds to a VBR. If the VLAN ID is set to a value from 1 to 2999, the switch port of the VBR is a Layer 3 VLAN subinterface. When a Layer 3 VLAN subinterface is used, each VLAN ID corresponds to a VBR. In this case, the Express Connect circuit with which the VBR is associated can be used to connect to VPCs that belong to different Alibaba Cloud accounts. VBRs in different VLANs are isolated from each other at Layer 2.
	For example, a company has multiple subdivisions or subsidiaries. Each subdivision or subsidiary has a separate Alibaba Cloud account. Each Alibaba Cloud account has a separate VPC. If the company applies for an Express Connect circuit, the company must assign a VLAN ID to the connection of each subdivision or subsidiary. When the company creates router interfaces, the VLAN IDs are used to identify the subsidiaries or subdivisions that use the Express Connect circuit. In this case, the VBRs of each subsidiary or subdivision are isolated at Layer 2.
Peer IPv4 Address of Gateway at Alibaba Cloud Side	Specify an IPv4 address for the VBR to route network traffic between the VPC and data center.
Peer IPv4 Address of Gateway at Customer Side	Specify an IPv4 address for the gateway device in the data center to route network traffic between the VPC and data center.
Subnet Mask (IPv4 Address)	Enter the subnet mask of the specified IPv4 addresses. You can enter a long subnet mask because only two IP addresses are required.

Parameter	Description
Support IPv6	Specify whether to enable IPv6. IPv6 is disabled by default. To use this feature, .
	• Disable : disables IPv6. This is the default setting.
	• Enable : enables IPv6. After you enable IPv6, you cannot disable this feature. Set the following parameters of the VBR:
	Peer IPv6 Address of Gateway at Alibaba Cloud Side: Specify an IPv6 address for the VBR to route network traffic between the VPC and data center. Peer IPv6 Address of Gateway at Alibaba Cloud Side and Peer IPv6 Address of Gateway at Customer Side must belong to the same CIDR block.
	Peer IPv6 Address of Gateway at Customer Side: Enter an IPv6 address for the gateway device in the data center to route network traffic between the VPC and data center.
	 Subnet Mask (IPv6 Address): Enter the subnet mask of the specified IPv6 addresses.
	After you enable this feature, the system establishes a Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BFD) session between the VBR and the gateway device in the data center. This way, the VBR and the gateway device can exchange BFD packets at a specified interval to verify network connectivity. If no packets are returned, the peer is considered unreachable.
BFD Parameter	② Note The BFD parameters take effect only if BFD is enabled. For more information about how to enable BFD, see 配置和管理BGP.
	• Submission Interval : Specify the interval at which BFD packets are sent. Valid values: 200 to 1000. Unit: milliseconds.
	• Reception Interval : Specify the interval at which BFD packets are received. Valid values: 200 to 1000. Unit: milliseconds.
	• Detection Time Multiple : The detection time multiplier. Valid values: 3 to 10.

Delete a VBR

You can delete VBRs that you no longer need.

1.

2.

- 3. On the Virtual Border Routers (VBRs) page, find the VBR that you want to delete and click **Delete** in the Actions column.
- 4. In the **Delete VBR** message, click **OK**.

References

- AttachVbrToVpconn: associates a VBR with a hosted connection.
- CreateVirtualBorderRouter: creates a VBR.
- DescribeVirtualBorderRouters: queries VBRs.

- DescribeVirtualBorderRoutersForPhysicalConnection: queries VBRs on a specified Express Connect circuit, including VBRs that belong to the owner of the Express Connect circuit, and VBRs that belong to the tenants of the Express Connect circuit.
- DeleteVirtualBorderRouter: deletes a VBR.
- List Virtual Physical Connections: queries hosted connections.
- ModifyVirtualBorderRouterAttribute: modifies the configuration of a VBR.
- UpdateVirtualBorderBandwidth: modifies the maximum bandwidth of a VBR.

3.Connect to a VPC

After you connect your data center to an access point of Alibaba Cloud through an Express Connect circuit, you must attach the associated virtual border router (VBR) to a Cloud Enterprise Network (CEN) instance. The CEN instance must be connected to the virtual private cloud (VPC) that you want to access. This way, your data center can communicate with the VPC through private connections.

Prerequisites

- Your data center is connected to Alibaba Cloud through an Express Connect circuit. In addition, a VBR is created for the Express Connect circuit. For more information, see Create a VBR.
- A CEN instance is created and the VPC that you want to access is attached to the CEN instance. For more information, see .

Context

CEN helps you build a global network for hybrid cloud environments or distributed systems. CEN supports automatic route distribution and learning, which accelerates network convergence and improves the quality and security of cross-region communications.

Network instances such as VPCs, VBRs, and Cloud Connect Network (CCN) instances that are created in the same region and attached to the same CEN instance can communicate with each other through private connections free of charge. Data transfer between network instances in different regions is charged. For example, if you want a VBR in the China (Hangzhou) region and a VPC in the US (Silicon Valley) to communicate with each other, you must purchase a bandwidth plan and allocate bandwidth to the cross-region connection. For more information, see Allocate bandwidth for cross-region communication.



Procedure

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4. In the Basic Information section, click Join CEN.
- 5. In the Join CEN panel, select the CEN instance to which you want to attach the VBR and click OK.

4. Manage routes

After you create a virtual border router (VBR), the system automatically creates a route table for the VBR. You can add routes to the route table to manage where network traffic is forwarded.

Background information

- After you create a VBR, you must add routes that point to the Express Connect circuit and the virtual private cloud (VPC) to route network traffic to the data center and the VPC.
- When you use Cloud Enterprise Network (CEN), Express Connect, Smart Access Gateway (SAG), or Virtual Private Network (VPN) to access internal Object Storage Service (OSS) endpoints, you must add routes that point to the CIDR blocks of the regions where the endpoints are created. For more information, see Regions and endpoints.
- VBRs support custom routes, Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) routes, and CEN routes.
 - You can add or delete a custom route as needed. You can add at most 48 custom routes.
 - You can also configure BGP routing for a VBR. For more information, see 配置和管理BGP.
 - After a VBR is attached to a CEN instance, the VBR and the CEN instance can automatically learn routes from each other.
- VBRs do not support source address-specific policy-based routes.

Add a custom route

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4. Click the **Routes** tab and then click **Add Route**.
- 5. In the Add Route panel, set the following parameters and click OK.

Parameter	Description
Next Hop Type	 Select the next hop type. Valid values: VPC: The VBR routes network traffic to a VPC. Physical Connection Interface: The VBR routes network traffic to an Express Connect circuit.
Destination CIDR Block	Enter the destination CIDR block.
Next Hop	Select the next hop based on the specified type.
Description	Enter a description for the route. The description must be 2 to 256 characters in length and can contain letters and digits.

Delete a custom route

1.

- - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4. Click the Routes tab, find the route that you want to delete, and then click Delete in the Actions column.
 - 5. In the message that appears, click OK.

References

- CreateRouteEntry: adds a custom route to a route table.
- ModifyRouteEntry: modifies the name and description of a custom route.
- DescribeRouteEntryList: queries routes. Before you delete a route from a route table of a VBR, call the corresponding API operation to query the ID of the next hop, which is returned by Next HopId.
- DeleteRouteEntry: deletes a custom route from a route table of a VBR.

5.Configure a failover group

When the system detects a failure in an Express Connect circuit, the system performs a failover within a few seconds. To accelerate failovers, you can add virtual border routers (VBRs) to a failover group. After the system detects failures on a VBR by using Bidirectional Forwarding Detection (BDF), the system can seamlessly switch workloads to the standby VBR in the failover group within less than one second.

Limits

- Before you use this feature, to acquire the required permissions.
- You can add only VBRs that have BFD enabled to failover groups.
- Each failover group can contain only two VBRs and each VBR can be added to only one failover group.
- The VBRs in a failover group must be deployed in the same region and attached to the same Cloud Enterprise Network (CEN) instance.
- The BGP peer groups of the VBRs in a failover group must use the same Autonomous System (AS) number.

Prerequisites

- Two VBRs are created in the same region and each VBR is connected to your data center through an Express Connect circuit. For more information, see Create a VBR and Manage routes.
- The VBRs are attached to the same CEN instance. For more information, see Attach a network instance.
- BFD is configured for the VBRs. For more information, see 配置和管理BGP.

Create a failover group

- 1.
- 2.
- 3. On the Virtual Border Routers (VBRs) page, click the ID of the VBR that you want to manage.
- 4. On the VBR details page, click the Failover Groups tab, and click Configure Backup Next Hop.
- 5. In the Configure Backup Next Hop dialog box, set the following parameters and click OK:

Parameter	Description
CEN	The system automatically displays the CEN instance to which the VBR is attached. If the VBR is not attached to a CEN instance, click Attach Now to attach the VBR to a CEN instance.
Region	The system automatically displays the region where the VBR is deployed.
Failover Group Name	Enter a name for the failover group.
Description	Enter a description for the failover group.

Parameter	Description
Standby VBR	Select a standby VBR from the drop-down list. The system automatically lists all VBRs that are deployed in the same region, attached to the same CEN instance, and have BFD enabled.

After you complete the preceding steps, the status of the failover group changes to Normal.

(?) Note You cannot modify the configuration of a failover group after the failover group is created. If the configuration of a failover group does not meet your business requirements, click Delete in the Actions column to delete the failover group. Then, create another failover group that meets your business requirements.

Test the failover group

After you complete the preceding steps, you can perform the following operations to test the failover group:

- 1. Log on to an Elastic Compute Service (ECS) instance. For more information, see Connection methods.
- 2. Run the ping command on the ECS instance to check the connectivity between the ECS instance and your data center.

If you can receive echo reply packets, it indicates that the connection is established.

- 3. Disconnect the active VBR from the data center.
- 4. Run the ping command again on the ECS instance to check the connectivity between the ECS instance and your data center.

If you can receive echo reply packets, it indicates that the connection is switched to the standby VBR in the failover group.

6.Monitoring and alerting for VBRs

Monitoring and alerting

Express Connect is integrated with CloudMonitor. You can view the status of virtual border routers (VBRs) updated in real time and configure alert rules to enable the system to send notifications when alerts are triggered. This helps you gain deep insights into VBRs and detect connectivity errors at the earliest opportunity to prevent service interruptions.

Prerequisites

- A VBR is created. For more information, see Create a VBR.
- A contact or a contact group is created before you configure an alert rule. For more information, see Create an alert contact or alert contact group.

View monitoring data of a VBR

1.

2.

3. On the Virtual Border Routers (VBRs) page, find the VBR that you want to manage and click the

icon in the **Monitor** column.

By default, the system displays monitoring data within the last hour. You can select 1 hour, 3 hours, 6 hours, or 12 hours on the dashboard, or specify a custom time range.

Configure an alert rule for a VBR

The following procedure shows how to configure an alert rule for a VBR in the Express Connect console. For more information about how to configure an alert rule for a VBR in the CloudMonitor console, see Create an alert rule.

1.

2.

- 3. On the Virtual Border Routers (VBRs) page, find the VBR that you want to manage and click the icon in the Monitor column.
- 4. Click **Set Alert Threshold** in the upper-right corner of the **Monitor** panel.
- 5. On the Alert Rules page, click Create Alert Rule.
- 6. In the Create Alert Rule panel, set the following parameters and click OK.

Parameter	Description
Product	Select the type of resource that you want to monitor by using CloudMonitor. In this example, Express Connect-VBR is selected.

Parameter	Description
Resource Range	 Specify the resources to which the alert rule is applied. If you select All Resources, the system generates an alert when a VBR that belongs to the current Alibaba Cloud account meets the specified condition. If you select Application Group and select an application group from the Associated Resources drop-down list, the system generates an alert when a VBR that belongs to the application group meets the specified condition. If you select Instance and select the region and ID of a VBR from the Associated Resources drop-down list, the system generates an alert only when the selected VBR meets the specified condition.
Rule Description	 Specify the condition of the alert rule. An alert is triggered when the condition of the alert rule is met. To specify a condition, perform the following operations: Click Add Rules. In the Add Rule Description panel, specify the rule name, metric type, metric, threshold, alert level, and notification method. Click OK.
Mute For	Specify the interval at which CloudMonitor resends alert notifications before the alert is cleared. An alert is triggered when the condition of an alert rule is met. CloudMonitor does not resend an alert notification if the alert is triggered again within the mute period. If the alert is not cleared after the mute period ends, CloudMonitor resends alert notifications.
Effective Time	Specify the period of time during which the alert rule is effective. CloudMonitor monitors a resource and generates alerts only if the alert rule is effective. Note You can click Advanced Settings to set this parameter.
Alert Contact Group	Select a contact group to which alert notifications are sent.
Alert Callback	Specify a URL that can be accessed over the Internet. CloudMonitor sends HTTP POST requests to push alert notifications to the specified URL. Only HTTP requests are supported. For more information about how to configure webhooks, see Use the alert callback feature to send notifications about threshold-triggered alerts.

Parameter	Description
Auto Scaling	 If you turn on Auto Scaling, the specified scaling rule is enabled when an alert is triggered. In this case, you must specify Region, ESS Group, and ESS Rule. For more information about how to create a scaling group, see Create a scaling group. For more information about how to create a scaling rule, see Create a scaling rule.
Log Service	If you turn on Log Service , the alert information is written to Log Service when an alert is triggered. You must specify Region , Project , and Logstore if you select this option. For more information about how to create a project and a Logstore, see Getting Started .
Message Service - topic	If you turn on Message Service - topic , the alert information is written to the specified topic in Message Service (MNS) when an alert is triggered. In this case, you must select a region and a topic. For information about how to create a topic, see Create a topic .
No data alarm processing method	 Select a method that is used to handle alerts when no monitoring data is found. Do not do anything Send no data alarm Treated as normal