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IANA Pressrelease

Upon IPv4 Depletion The IPv6 Forum Calls for Swift Move to IPv6 To Sustain Internet Growth

Today, IANA, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, has announced the allocation of the last /8 blocks of the global IPv4 central address pool, ending all debates over when this would happen. Several months remain before Regional Internet Registries (RIR) distribute all their remaining regional IPv4 address blocks. Recent trends suggest that Asia, Europe, and North America will exhaust in that order within a month or two on either side of July 1, 2011. The RIPE NCC, the Regional Internet Registry for Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia, urges Internet Service Providers, governments, network providers and other stakeholders to deploy IPv6 to ensure that the innovative evolution of the Internet continues.

February 3, 2011 -The eventuality of this day was foreseen by the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) almost 20 years ago, and a new IP protocol, the Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6), was developed and standardized. The IPv4 based Internet will not stop working, but it will stop growing, while the IPv6 based Internet is designed to grow for generations to come.

Predicted 21 years ago

In 1999 the IPv6 Forum was established with the mission to educate and promote the new protocol, and now that we have reached the end of the IPv4 central pool, that mission is more urgent than ever. In our daily lives, failure of the Internet infrastructure or restrictions on its capabilities to add new users or support the worldwide economy are no longer acceptable. Therefore the IPv6 Forum recommends to all people involved in ICT, that now is the time to leverage 2011 and 2012 for planning and rolling out the new version of the Internet Protocol. Enabling IPv6 in all ICT environments is not the end game but is now a critical requirement for continuity in all Internet business and services going forward. Production quality deployments will take time. Starting late, accelerating the process and rapidly deploy an IPv6 infrastructure to sustain growth and communicate with customers, suppliers, and partners will compromise quality and significantly raise the costs and risks. Many of these unnecessary costs are operational and will accumulate yearly.

More than a few months

Transition planning and adoption of IPv6 is now critical to the on-going stability and growth of Internet Protocol based ICT, not only in the public Internet but in every facet of your office, home and mobile electronic existence where TCP/IP and other IP protocols are used. Training, management, support, billing, security and applications development need to be engaged to allow you to be IPv6 ready.

Minimizing risks and costs

To support the introduction of IPv6 in Switzerland, the Swiss IPv6 Council is currently being established. The prime objective of the Swiss IPv6 Council and its members is to promote deployment and swifter uptake of the new Internet using IPv6 with support from industry, education, research communities and government agencies enabling equitable access to technology and knowledge.

The Swiss IPv6 Council

"The Swiss IPv6 Council has been established to revive in the Swiss Internet community a new momentum and a sense of responsibility in this marathon undertaking in the deployment of IPv6" said Latif Ladid, IPv6 Forum President.

"The Swiss IPv6 Council will engage previous and new key stakeholders from government, industry and academia to support and promote the deployment of IPv6 in Switzerland" Stated Silvia Hagen, Chair, Swiss IPv6 Council.

To find more information on the global address situation, recommendations, links and articles go to our new website at <http://www.swissipv6council.ch>. This is a preliminary website built for the purpose of this first press release which was dated by this historical public event of IPv4 address depletion. We plan many events, projects and will publish a lot of useful background information and resources very soon. So please come back again.

Quotes from Experts:

"The Internet has become the global communication network, now is the time to sustain its growth and stability by integrating IPv6. IPv6 adds great value to IPv4" states Dr. Vint Cerf, Honorary Chair, IPv6 Forum.

"The time is now! and resistance is futile" states Latif Ladid, IPv6 Forum President and senior researcher at University of Luxembourg, Security and Trust (SnT) Center.

"Attempting to predict this date has been an interesting challenge over the years, given the chaotic nature of global Internet growth. The challenge ahead for the larger community will be to move past denial, mourning, and grief, and get on with the task of IPv6 deployment." States Tony Hain, Technical Director, North American IPv6 Task Force and IPv6 Forum Fellow.

"If you think you can ignore IPv6, think again. As new IPv4 addresses cannot be acquired, the industry will be faced with customers / partners / suppliers who can only be reached via IPv6. Our industry will need to face the "balkanization" of the Internet. It is time to act and to deploy IPv6 now." states Yanick Pouffary, NAv6TF Technology Director, IPv6 Forum Fellow and IPv6 Forum (Ready & Enabled) Logo Programs Chairperson.

"It's quite unfortunate that it needed to come to the point of hard exhaustion of IPv4, instead of experiencing a smooth migration to IPv6 in the last 5 years. On the other hand, it's good that it's finally over, and no amount of denial can hide the fact anymore that IPv4 has outlived its usefulness. My hope is that people will now stop stalling and finding excuses, and start embracing IPv6 instead." States Gert Döring, IPv6 Evangelist SpaceNet AG and RIPE Address Policy WG Chair

About the Swiss IPv6 Council

The Swiss IPv6 Council is a chapter of the IPv6 Forum dedicated to the advancement and propagation of IPv6 in Switzerland. Comprised of individual and corporate members, its mission is to provide technical leadership and innovative thought for the successful integration of IPv6 into all facets of networking and telecommunications infrastructure, present and future.

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About the IPv6 Forum

The IPv6 Forum is a world-wide consortium of leading vendors, Internet service vendors, National research & Education Networks (NRENs) and international ISPs, with a clear mission to promote IPv6 by improving market and user awareness, creating a quality and secure Next Generation Internet and allowing world-wide equitable access to knowledge and technology. The key focus of the IPv6 Forum today is to provide technical guidance for the deployment of interoperability thru its IPv6 Ready & Enabled Logo Programs :www.ipv6ready.org & http://www.ipv6forum.com/ipv6_enabled/