Addressing the Administrative Challenges of IPv6 Deployment in Public Administrations

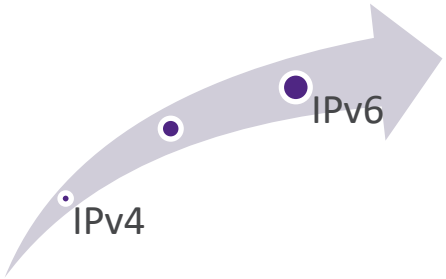
Dr. David Holder (Erion Ltd)
Mark McFadden
IPv6 Framework for European Governments – SMART 2016/0099
Workshop – Instituto Superior Técnico – Lisbon, Portugal
21st September 2018

Addressing the Administrative Challenges of IPv6 Deployment

- Setting goals for IPv6 deployment
- Justifying the IPv6 deployment
- Planning the IPv6 deployment
- The role of leadership in IPv6 deployment
- Incorporating IPv6 deployment into strategic ICT planning
- Case studies in successful IPv6 deployment

Setting Long-Term Goals for IPv6 Deployment

- Understanding the true goal of IPv6 deployment is crucial to success
- The long-term goal should be an **IPv6-only network**
  - The long-term goal should be to eliminate IPv4 from your networks
  - Failure to understand this can be detrimental to the deployment of IPv6
  - Maximum benefits from IPv6 are achieved when IPv4 is eliminated
- Other long-term goals risk being “IPv4 centric”:
  - Design can be compromised by IPv4 thinking
  - IPv4 may be seen as the primary protocol leading to treating IPv6 as a secondary protocol or “add-on”. This will compromise the deployment
- Seek a minimum of parity between IPv4 and IPv6 **but** prefer IPv6 when possible



What is an IPv6-Only Network?

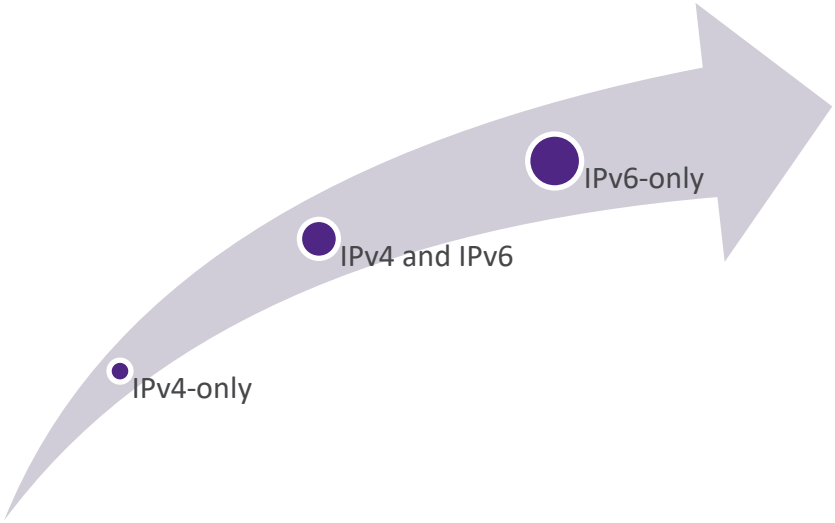
- An IPv6-only network:
  - Has IPv6 as its network layer protocol
  - Does not support *native* IPv4
  - Does not have any *internal* IPv4 connectivity

- Accessing legacy IPv4-only services and content from an IPv6-only network:
  - Usually through some form of translation or encapsulation, e.g.
    - NAT64/DNS64
    - 464XLAT
    - MAP-E or MAP-T
    - DS-Lite
    - There are others

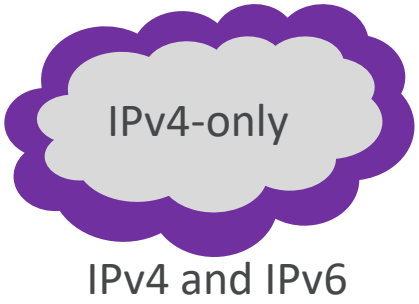
Setting Intermediate Goals for IPv6 Deployment

- It is important to understand that there will be intermediate goals on the path to IPv6-only
  - It is often not practical to deploy IPv6-only immediately
  - A normal deployment will require at least one intermediate step to IPv6-only
  - The most common intermediate step is dual-stack

- Common intermediate goals are:
  - Deploy IPv6 at the edge
    - On public facing services
    - On access and transit at the edge
  - Deploy dual-stack
    - Adding IPv6 to existing networks



What is Deploying IPv6 at the Edge?



- On public facing services
  - Often much easier than organisations expect
  - Public services can be IPv6-enabled in two main ways:
    - Natively by converting the service to dual-stack operation
    - Through translation of an IPv4-only service to IPv6
      - Many Content Distribution Networks (CDNs) provide this service as standard (sometimes by default)
      - Load-balancers often include translation to IPv6 enable IPv4-only services
      - Fast and easy solution to “IPv6-enable” IPv6-only services
      - Usually trivial to enable for testing and then move to production – very limited risk to existing services
- On access and transit at the edge
  - Providing IPv6 at the edge of a network is a key step in providing IPv6 services

What is Dual-Stack?

- Dual-stack is the default and most common method of deploying IPv6 today
- Dual-stack networks support both native IPv4 and native IPv6
- Dual-stack nodes can communicate using both native IPv4 and native IPv6
- Essentially dual-stack networks are bilingual
- Dual-stack is the most flexible deployment approach
- Dual-stack is relatively easy to deploy
- There are disadvantages to dual-stack:
  - Networks are more complex – two protocols with complex interactions
  - Increased administrative overhead – two protocols to manage
  - Greater node and network resources are required to support both protocols
  - Additional complexities in routing
  - Greater security challenges (both IPv4 and IPv6 vulnerabilities with complex interactions between the two)

Dual Stack is the Default

- Dual stack is the norm:
  - All modern operating systems are dual stack
  - Most network equipment is dual stack
  - Most network services are dual stack
  - Many network applications are dual stack
- Dual stack is usually on by default
  - This is an aspect of IPv6 deployment that is largely already done for you

The Wrong Goal for IPv6 Deployment

The **goal** isn't adding IPv6 to an IPv4 network

However, this is a legitimate tactic

Subsidiary Goals for Public Administrations

- In addition to the IPv6 specific goals, public administrations are likely to have many interrelated goals that interface with IPv6 deployment
- These will vary from administration to administration and even from department to department
  - Goals to support technology
  - Goals to support growth
  - Goals to support education
  - Goals to support strategic objectives

Justifying IPv6 Deployment

- Does IPv6 deployment require justification?
  - Is its deployment an integral part of normal network development?
  - For example, IPv6 is already active in *all* modern operating systems
  - Don't necessarily seek justification for something you are going to do anyway
- Be clear about what you are seeking justification for
  - A single coordinated project ***is*** best practice
  - However a single all-encompassing project can send the wrong message:
    - IPv6 may be seen as a bigger step than it needs to be
    - IPv6 may not be seen as the natural evolution that it is
    - Presenting IPv6 as a single all-encompassing deployment project can sometimes be a help and sometimes it can be a hindrance
  - Different justifications for different areas of deployments
    - E.g. public vs. internal deployments

Generic Justifications for IPv6 Deployment

- Deterioration of the legacy IPv4 internet
  - Impact of Carrier Grade NAT (CGN) (and NAT44)
  - Impact of routing fragmentation
  - Impact of address squatting
- Exhaustion of your stock of public IPv4 addresses
- Exhaustion of your internal RFC1918 private address space
- Support for deploying the Internet of Things (IoT)
- Restrictions in certain marketplaces (e.g. Apple App Store)
- Peer-to-peer requirements
- Cybersecurity, legal intercept and analytics
- IPv6 is the current standard for the Internet Protocol
- IPv6 forms the basis for key technologies (e.g. mobile – 4G/5G)

Justifying IPv6 Deployment in Public Administrations

- Public institutions rely on the Internet just as much as others
  - And, are affected by trends in the general Internet just as much as others
  - The generic reasons for deploying IPv6 apply equally to public administrations
- The Internet, as a platform for growth and innovation, requires IPv6
  - IPv6 necessary for Internet economy growth
    - The alternatives entail unacceptable risks
    - Limitations on scalability (dense NAT without IPv6)
    - Hurried/unstable IPv6 deployment (wait and rush)
    - Need to promote interoperability where possible
    - As IPv6 becomes norm, IPv6 expertise key for economic competitivity
  - The “end” of IPv4 also brings competition concerns and regulatory issues
    - Governments need expertise, they need to be prepared

Why Doesn’t Anyone Have to Justify IPv4?

- Explicitly justifying the use of legacy IPv4 is extremely unusual – it is assumed
- You should seek parity for IPv6
- It is reasonable to ask – “why are we deploying this over legacy IPv4?”

Justification and Obtaining Buy-In

- For an IPv6 deployment to be successful there needs to be executive, management and ministerial support
- Some aspects of an IPv6 deployment work best if they are centralised, providing common standards and goals, therefore central support and buy-in is crucial

- The departmental and regional structure of a public administration will influence where buy-in needs to be obtained
- There are differences in federal and non-federal administrations

Engage Key Suppliers in the Justification Process

- There are suppliers who are keen to support IPv6 adoption
- Enlist these in your justification process
- For example, in some regions the lack of IPv4 address space is hurting specific industries, these will be keen to support your initiative
- Service providers (fixed line and mobile) can play an important role depending on their stance on IPv6

IPv6 Task Force or Stakeholder Group

- These can be an effective way of coordinating support for IPv6 deployment
- They can bring together government and industry players
- They can create awareness, generate support and assist with the case for IPv6
- They can also bring together key players that are necessary for success such as service providers
- Some public administrations have created IPv6 Task Forces
- Others have provided support for IPv6 Task Forces
- It has been noted that even a single meeting can have a significant affect

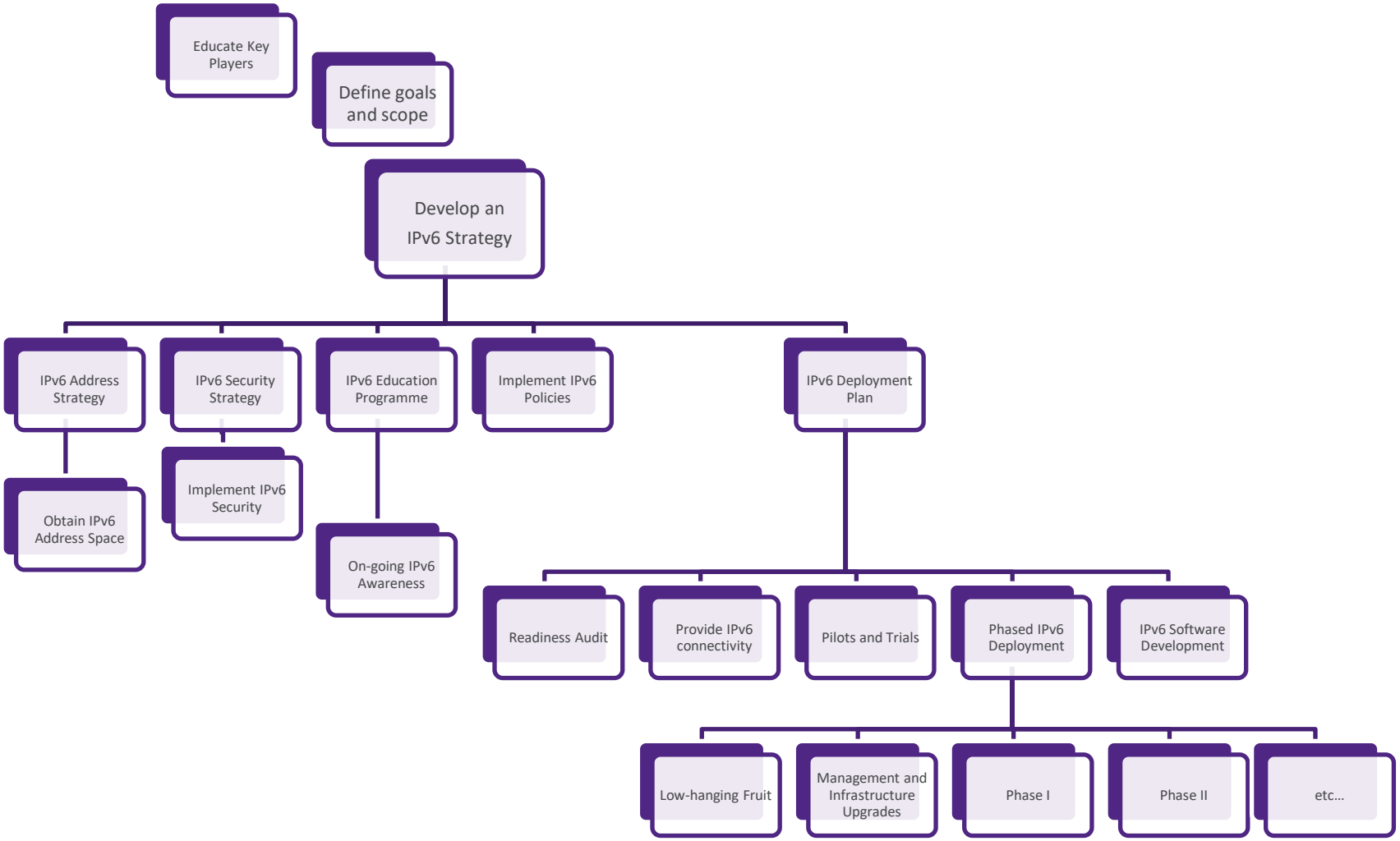
Planning the IPv6 deployment – Key Activities

- Key IPv6 deployment project planning activities:
  - Define the project **goals** and **scope**
  - Plan an **IPv6 Awareness and Education Programme**
  - Define an **IPv6 Deployment Strategy**
  - Create an **IPv6 Address Strategy**
  - Develop an **IPv6 Security Strategy**
  - Plan the phases **IPv6 Deployment**
- These activities are interrelated and are often carried out in parallel
- As a part of these you will also need to:
  - Obtain **IPv6 Address Space**
  - Initiate an **IPv6 Awareness and Education Programme**
  - Carry out a **Readiness Audit** and/or **Pilots/Trials**

Establishing Goals and Scope

- Goals
  - Long-term goal should be IPv6-only
  - There will be intermediate goals such as IPv6 at the edge and dual stack
  - There are likely to be administration specific strategic goals that are IPv6 related
- Scope
  - IPv6 deployment can touch almost every part of a public administration
    - Not just technology
    - The overall project should recognise this
    - However, the deployment project does not have to be all encompassing in scope – balance between setting right goals and policies and implementation
  - Applications, Information, Computing Platforms, Networking, Infrastructure Services, Processes, Standards, Security, Governance, Buildings, Sites, Transport, Communications, Media, Human Resources…

Example IPv6 Deployment Programme



Planning an IPv6 Deployment - Timescales

- Deploying IPv6 is not just a project it is also a process
- Patience is required – IPv6 deployment is usually a long process
  - IPv4 is likely to be around for the foreseeable future
  - Even if you move to IPv6-only networks you will still have IPv4 at the edge
- Certain aspects of deployment require hard deadlines
  - Particularly activities that the rest of the project depend upon, e.g.
    - Creating an IPv6 strategy and implementing IPv6 policies
    - Carrying out an IPv6 training/education/awareness programme
    - Creating an IPv6 addressing plan
    - Obtaining IPv6 address space
    - Provisioning IPv6 internet connectivity
- Others may be on-going processes driven by other activities

Planning the IPv6 deployment – Key Players

- First recognise the need for a change of **mindset**
  - It is normal to underestimate the difference in design and operational best practice between IPv4 and IPv6 – beware of this
- Second ensure that **key players** have a **good** understanding of IPv6
  - **All** reported IPv6 deployments have testified to the importance of IPv6 education – do not underestimate this
  - Make sure planners, designers and architects are educated in IPv6

Planning – IPv6 Awareness and Education

- We will discuss this in more detail in a later session
- IPv6 is different from IPv4 in complex and subtle ways
  - Understanding this, in detail, is key to having a successful IPv6 deployment
  - Successful IPv6 deployments all attest to the necessity of IPv6 training

- Education should take place as early as possible in the process
- Identify and train key players before making key design decisions
- All technical staff will need at least a basic introduction to IPv6

Planning – IPv6 Deployment Strategy I

- Aims and goals
- Overview of deployment options
- Readiness assessment report
  - Summary of findings
  - Review of constraints and requirements
  - Document implications

  - Continued…

Planning – IPv6 Deployment Strategy II

- Guidance on optional deployment
  - How to leverage benefits of IPv6
  - Recommendations of best practice
  - Choice of deployment approaches
  - Catalogue of known risks and potential pitfalls
  - Recommendations on training and communications
  - Prerequisites prior to deployment
  - Configuration recommendations for hardware, software and services
  - How to preserve IPv4 addresses and connectivity during deployment

  - Continued…

Planning – IPv6 Deployment Strategy III

- High-level deployment plan
  - Outline scheduling and priorities
  - Preparation (e.g. policy, training, security, addressing, infrastructure upgrades)
  - External phased deployment
  - Internal phased deployment
  - Set time-line and deadlines

Planning – IPv6 Address Strategy

- An **IPv6 address strategy** is **crucial** to the success of an IPv6 deployment
- You want to get this right – it is important to avoid ever having to renumber
  - Overview of IPv6 addressing
  - Schema design considerations
    - Summary of best practice and local constraints
  - The IPv6 address schema
    - Prefix type, length and source
    - Prefix subnetting structure
    - Types and structures of Interface Identifiers (IIDs)
  - Address allocation and assignment policy
    - Procedures and policies to ensure the efficient and consistent allocation of addresses
    - Specify how addresses will be managed and the tools that will be used

Planning – IPv6 Security Strategy

- You should **already** be securing IPv6 in your network
  - IPv6 security should already be a standard component of your IT security
  - All today's networks are dual-stack **by default**
  - You have IPv6 vulnerabilities in your networks now
  - There is no such thing as an IPv4-only network anymore
- Develop and implement an IPv6 security strategy **as soon as possible**
  - Overview of IPv6 security
  - Summary of best practice and local security design considerations
  - IPv6 security strategy
    - Procedures and policies defining which security techniques will be implemented, how they will be implemented and where they will be implemented
  - High-level IPv6 security deployment plan

Planning – IPv6 Deployment Approaches

- IPv6 has been designed to make it deployable in a wide range of flexible ways
- There are three main categories of deployment approaches
  - IPv6 deployment flexibility means that they can be used separately or in parallel

- Inside-out
  - Deploy in core network infrastructure then enable networks and applications
- Outside-In
  - Enable IPv6 at the network edge and enabling inwards
- IPv6 Islands
  - Enabling islands of IPv6 in specific areas and gradually expanding them

Planning – Connectivity and Transit

- Native IPv6 transit is a key prerequisite for an IPv6 deployment
- Whilst IPv6 can be deployed without native IPv6 connectivity this does not provide the necessary scalability, manageability, reliability and performance necessary for a government or enterprise deployment
- Most transit providers are IPv6 enabled
- You will need native IPv6 connectivity from your service providers
  - Beware of immaturity or inexperience within your service providers
  - Beware of second-class IPv6 services from some service providers

Planning – Readiness Audit/Gap Analysis

- Readiness audit/s
  - You need to estimate the gap between what you have and what you need
  - You need to identify potential problem areas
  - Some organisations carry out a comprehensive audit others only look at specific areas of interest
  - You need to specify what you are going to audit and what you are looking for
  - Gap analysis should cover:
    - IPv6 support and functionality in network infrastructure, nodes, services, security, applications and management systems
    - Resources to support the addition of IPv6 (e.g. memory)
    - Management tools
    - Expertise (see education/training)
  - A number of public profiles exist for IPv6 (see next slide):

Planning – Readiness Audit – IPv6 Profiles

- A number of public profiles exist for IPv6:
  - Requirements for IPv6 in ICT Equipment (RIPE-554)
  - IPv6 Ready Logo Program of the IPv6 Forum
  - A Profile for IPv6 in the US Government (V1, NIST, 2008)
  - Department of Defense Unified Capabilities Requirements 2013 (UCR 2013)
  - IPv6 Node Requirements (RFC6434)
  - IPv6 Profile (www.bmi.bund.de)

Planning –Pilots/Trials

- Pilots and Trials
  - Testing is important
  - IPv6 pilots are beneficial to ensure IPv6 works in your particular environment and with the products and services that you use
  - It is also useful for staff to gain additional experience of IPv6
  - For example, it is useful to deploy IPv6 in one office before rolling out to all other offices

The Role of Leadership in IPv6 Deployment

- Leadership has been identified as a **significant factor** in the success of IPv6 deployment in public administrations
- Encourage the appointment of leadership that:
  - Is highly motivated
  - Understands that IP infrastructure underpins strategic objectives
  - Is an advocate/leader for IPv6
  - Is a single point of contact for IPv6 across all departments/ministries
  - Has a consistent message
  - Avoids competing initiatives and nurtures cooperation
  - Seek to encourage the formation/growth of a national IPv6 group such as an IPv6 Task Force or an IPv6 Council

Motivating IPv6 Deployment

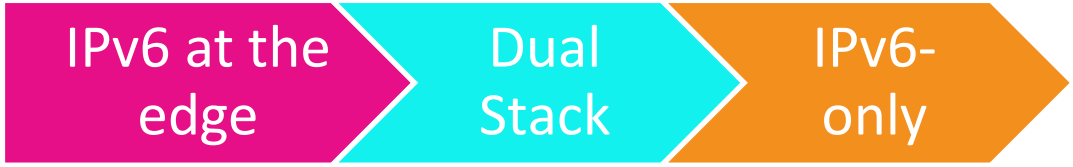
- Many schemes have been suggested and tried for motivating IPv6 deployment
- By far the most effective has been the use of mandates with hard deadlines
  - MS have commented that mandates “without teeth” are not effective
- Other motivational schemes that have been use include:
  - Awarding success with **certifications** and official **awards**
  - Encouraging **competition** between departments/ministries
  - **Measuring** deployment progress on a publicly available web-site

Incorporating IPv6 Deployment into Strategic Planning

- You should have **three** strategic goals:
  - **Long-Term Strategy:** IPv6-only
  - **Medium-Term Strategy:** Dual stack
  - **Short-Term Strategy:** IPv6 at the edge

- Implicit in these goals are the aims:
  - To reduce your dependency on legacy IPv4 infrastructure and services
  - To future-proof your networks

- How should these goals be incorporated into strategic planning?



Strategic Planning - Purchasing

- You should **mandate** that all IP capable purchases must be IPv6-ready and capable of IPv6-only operation
  - It is wasteful to purchase legacy systems that do not support IPv6
  - This mandate should cover all IP capable hardware and software
  - This means **everything** that is networked (lights, freezers, cameras, transport, cloud services, applications)
  - Ideally this policy should already have been in force for at least ten years
  - Educating purchasing departments in what is “IPv6-ready” and what is “networked” can be challenging
  - Explicitly tell your suppliers as soon as possible

- Specifications of what is “IPv6-ready” can be useful, but they are less necessary today as core IPv6 features are normal. You are more likely to cherry-pick specific IPv6 requirements for specific scenarios e.g. security features in a datacentre.

Purchasing and the Meaning of “IPv6-Ready”

- Historically there was a need to carefully define the meaning of “IPv6-Ready”
  - The immaturity of IPv6 implementations meant that you had to validate that core features were implemented in a product or service
  - Evolving IPv6 standards meant that newer features or defaults might not be implemented or enabled in products or services
- Today this is less of a problem
  - The majority of IPv6 enterprise products are mature
  - Whilst all standards continue to evolve, the IPv6 core standards are “stable”
- There are still exceptions
  - Rather than checking adherence to all of the standards, specify the exceptions
    - Recent standards and defaults
    - Specific specialise features (e.g. security features)

Purchasing and Wording the Policy

- Use an abstract purchasing policy and wording in tenders
  - Specify that IPv6 support must be at least equivalent to IPv4
  - Avoid details – these change
  - Only specify special requirements and exceptions
  - Push the problem onto the vendor, leave it to them to guarantee that they meet your requirements
    - Specify penalties/actions if they fail to deliver
    - Remember you are only purchasing from vendors who claim to support IPv6, you should take them at their word and they should be willing to back this up
    - Make it clear that it is their responsibility

Educating Purchasing Departments

- This remains a challenge
- Purchasing may not understand that a product is network enabled, never mind that it has IPv4 or IPv6
- Educating purchasing departments remains a “best-effort” exercise
  - Make sure that they are aware of the IPv6-ready purchasing mandate
  - Help them understand what might be networked
  - Emphasise the importance of compatibility and interoperability
- There still remains the problem of “stealth” purchases
  - There are a huge range of often unusual products that are networked
  - Some may be purchased outside of normal channels that lack checks for IPv6
  - Some organisations that have tried to raise the awareness of IPv6 through poster campaigns etc – the effectiveness of this with a generic audience is unknown

Strategic Planning – Software Development

- You should **mandate** that all IP capable software development must be IPv6-ready **and** capable of operating in IPv6-only networks
  - It is **wasteful** to continue to develop systems that do not support IPv6
  - You will only have to rewrite them in the future which is likely to be more costly than getting it right at the start
  - Ideally this policy should already have been in force for at least ten years
  - You will need to educate software developers on how to write IPv6-ready code
    - Warning: there are multiple ways of “IPv6 enabling” applications. Giving software developers a choice is a bad idea – set standards
    - Warning: there is a lot of incorrect advice on well-known web-sites – set standards
  - Note that you will still need to IPv6-enable legacy applications (including bespoke tools and management systems)
    - However, in a dual-stack environment IPv4-only S/W will continue to work

Strategic Planning – Hiring

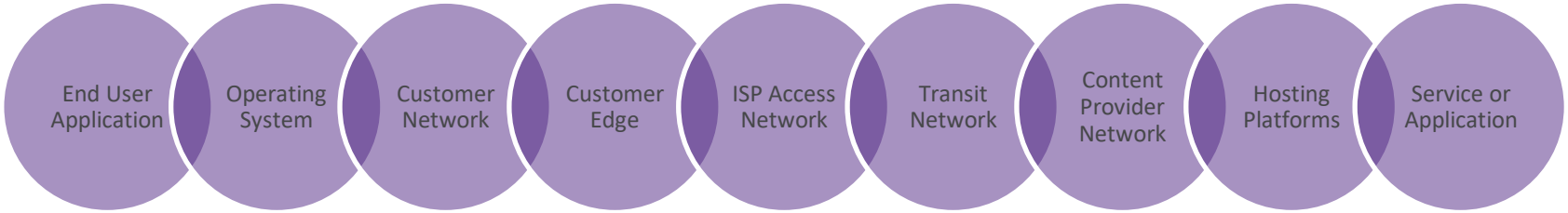
- You should **mandate** now that all ICT job descriptions that include a knowledge of networking and particularly IP specifically require IPv6
  - It is wasteful to continue to hire staff that only know legacy IPv4
  - Look for evidence of formal training and experience with IPv6
  - If the post is focussed on networking then they should be able to demonstrate a good knowledge of IPv6
  - IPv6 skills are in short supply – this is a problem
    - Upskilling your existing staff is going to be essential

Case Studies in Successful IPv6 Deployment

- Public administration case study
  - Germany
- Commercial case study
  - Facebook

IPv6 Context of Case Studies

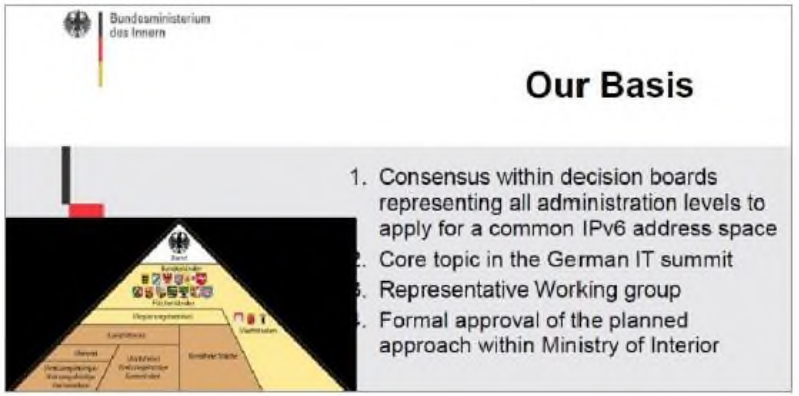
- Dual stack users: **50% to 85% of traffic** is over IPv6 today
- Over **20% of users** globally have IPv6 connectivity
  - Google statistic – Google does not operate in China affecting the figures there
- Annual **doubling** of IPv6 enabled users
- Over **50%** of *top* web-sites are IPv6 enabled
- IPv6 has been reported by Facebook to be **10-15% faster** than IPv4
- Almost **100%** of nodes are IPv6 capable
- Major players are IPv6 enabled: Facebook, LinkedIn, Google, YouTube, Netflix
- Many mobile networks are IPv6 enabled (or IPv6-only) – 4G (some report that over **90%** of traffic is IPv6)



IPv6 Case Study: Germany

General IPv6 development :
33.8% (Google) - 27.6% (Akamai)
Public IPv6 development : 25.6%

- History
  - Decision to adopt IPv6 was made in the public sector in 2007
  - National IPv6 plan for Germany launched in 2009
- Key Stakeholders
  - The migration process is driven by:
    - Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI)
    - Federal Office of Administration (BVA)
  - These coordinate the IPv6 working group
- Drivers to Adopt IPv6
  - Exhaustion of IPv4 address space
  - Opportunity to replace legacy networks to create an integrated, efficient and highly secure communications infrastructure for all areas of government



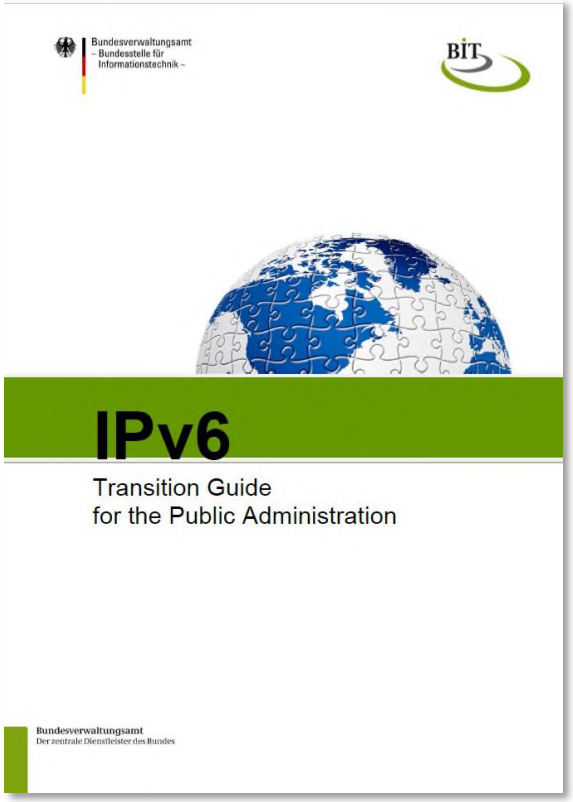
Source: BMI

IPv6 Case Study: Germany - Planning

- Project Scope
  - IPv6 deployment scope is public only
- Features
  - The BMI is not forcing public administrations to adopt IPv6 but is facilitating and encouraging the move to IPv6
- Key Initiatives
  - Procurement policies
  - IPv6 address space plan
  - IPv6 address space prefix
  - Migration documentation and reference documents
  - Training materials (in German and specific to Germany's deployment)
  - Several deployments

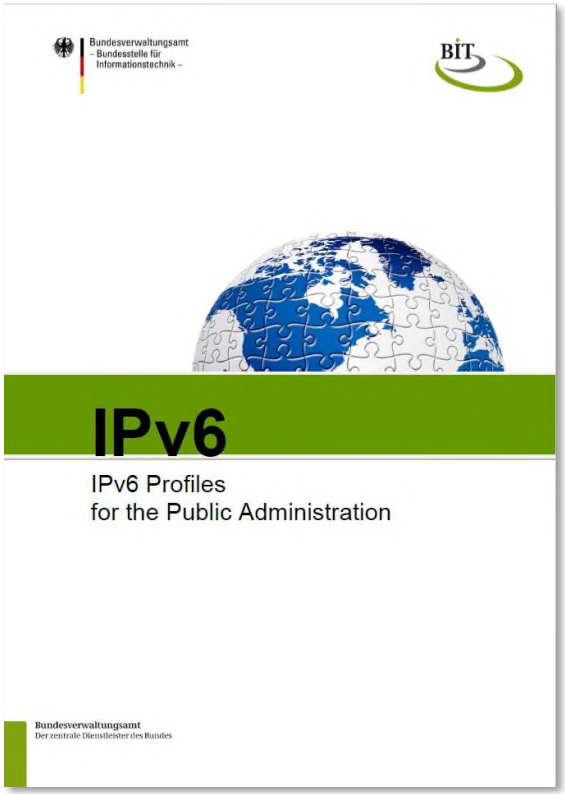
IPv6 Case Study: Germany – Migration Plan

- Germany has created an IPv6 Migration Plan (Germany/English)
  - Dated 2013
  - Contains a lot of useful information:
    - Motivation for public administrations
    - Overview of transition to IPv6
    - Addressing concepts
    - Transition techniques
    - Security
    - Transition of Infrastructure
    - Transition scenarios
    - IPv6 special considerations
    - Checklists



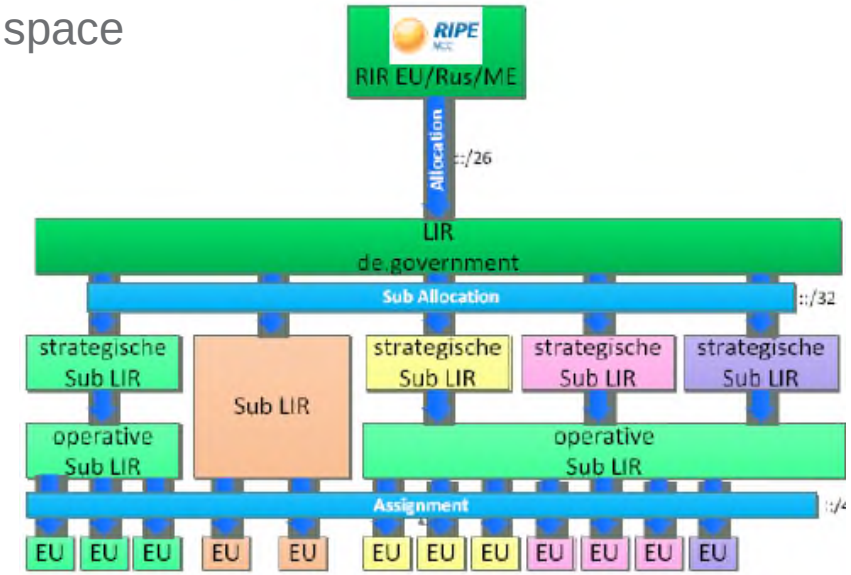
IPv6 Case Study: Germany - Procurement

- Germany has developed IPv6 profiles (German and English) to facilitate the procurement of IPv6-ready equipment and software
  - Dated 2013
  - These are based on the Slovenia profiles
  - Overview of existing profiles
  - Hardware
  - Software
  - There is also a profile spreadsheet



IPv6 Case Study: Germany - Addressing

- Germany is a federal government
- The federal government is a Local Internet Registry (LIR)
- Along with other RIPE members the federal government sought changes to RIPE policy to make it match the needs of governments and not just ISPs
- A /23 prefix has been obtained for government
- An IPv6 address plan for Germany has been created
  - Clear definition of government address space
  - Efficient routing
  - Route aggregation
  - Direct inter-ministry communication



Source: BMI

IPv6 Case Study: Germany - Deployments

- A number of IPv6 deployments have taken place within Germany
- **Example**
  - GEN6 pilot IPv6 enabling municipal datacentres and infrastructure

    See http://ipv6gov.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Workshop-1-05-DE-Case-Study-Gerold-Gruber.pdf
  - Key points:
    - The importance of management awareness and support
    - IPv6 training for all staff is crucial
    - Get IPv6 addresses and create a local schema/plan
    - Carry out preparations – testbeds – operational preparation – etc
    - Enable IPv6 in the access networks
    - Enable infrastructure and infrastructure services
    - Enable applications and security

IPv6 Case Study: Facebook

- History
  - Began with limited deployment in 2010
  - Today internal networks are IPv6-only
- Key Stakeholders
  - Enterprise commitment to IPv6 at all levels
- Drivers to Adopt IPv6
  - Exhaustion of public IPv4 address space
  - Exhaustion of internal IPv4 address space
  - Concern about the impact of the deterioration of IPv4 would have upon the service they provider to customers (particularly CGN)
  - Saves money on the need for internal CGN devices
  - Particularly important for the mobile market (majority of LTE traffic is v6)

IPv6 Case Study: Facebook - Deployment

- Project Scope
  - Everything must be IPv6-only capable - all Facebook apps must support IPv6
  - Management and operations is over IPv6
- Features
  - Migration was phased – now have IPv6-only fabric
  - Dual stack was a problem – exceeded 1000 BGP sessions limit
  - Now moving to a /64 per server rather than /64 per rack
  - Have reported 10-15% faster response for IPv6 users on mobile networks
- Key Initiatives
  - Migrated all tooling and management to IPv6 ***first***
  - IPv6-only is largely complete
  - Now working on eradicating legacy IPv4-only equipment

Questions