

Accurate information key to understanding IPv6 deployment

[April 22, 2009, Brisbane Australia] As the deployment of IPv6 gains momentum, an increasing number of stakeholders, including those from the public sector are becoming aware they need to gain a better understanding of the current Internet environment and how to support IPv6 adoption.

The Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) and the four other Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) are best placed to provide an understanding of the IP addressing landscape, since they are collectively responsible for the distribution of IPv4 and IPv6 IP addresses around the globe.

APNIC, as an ITU-D sector member, with its ability to provide unique and reliable data on IP address distribution, has provided a public response to assist Member States complete the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB)'s 'Questionnaire on IPv6 address allocation and encouraging the deployment of IPv6'. The results of the questionnaire will form part of a report to be submitted to the ITU Council meeting in Geneva, 20-30 October 2009.

APNIC's response provides summaries of the detailed data published by the RIRs. The summaries include:

- Trends in address space consumption on a per-country basis over the past four years
- Current global IPv4 and IPv6 distribution by economy
- Number of organizations per economy in the Asia Pacific region that have IP address space from APNIC ranges

The response is available at:

<http://www.apnic.net/community/research/ipv6/tsb-ipv6-survey-apnic.pdf>

APNIC encourages Member States to contact their local Regional Internet Registry for any questions they may have.

In estimating IPv4 to IPv6 transition requirements, APNIC reminds Member States that this process will take many years to complete due to legacy infrastructure and the preference by operators and end-users to take a staged approach to the transition.

Actual timelines for IPv6 adoption will vary depending on operator strategy, economic conditions, and equipment upgrade cycle. During this transition period, both IPv4-only and IPv4/IPv6 networks will co-exist.



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APNIC advises that all stakeholders seeking to understand the dynamics of IPv4 exhaustion and IPv6 deployment should also take into account other factors, such as Internet penetration rates, local market competition and population densities, when interpreting and extrapolating address distribution data.

Member States wishing to review recent IPv6 readiness surveys conducted by other stakeholder organizations, including APNIC, may access these at the following web addresses:

<http://www.apnic.net/survey/2009/2009-survey-report.pdf>
http://www.getipv6.info/index.php/IPv6_Penetration_Survey_Results
<http://www.isoc.org/pubs/2009-IPv6-OrgMember-Report.pdf>

About

Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC, pronounced A-P-Nic) is an open, membership-based, not-for-profit organization. It is one of five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) charged with ensuring the fair distribution and responsible management of IP addresses and related resources, which are required for the stable and reliable operation of the global Internet.

As part of this service, the APNIC Secretariat is also responsible for maintaining the public APNIC Whois Database and managing reverse DNS zone delegations.

APNIC is also actively involved in the development of Internet infrastructure throughout the region. This includes provision of training and education services, supporting technical activities such as rootserver deployments and collaborating with other regional and international organizations.

About the RIRs

The RIRs have a long and consistent history of engaging governments and other stakeholders to help them understand how IP address management systems work and how stakeholders can participate in the open and transparent policy making processes that develop the allocation policies. In addition, each RIR makes their IP address allocation and registration policies publicly available (documents are also often available in multiple languages).

The five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) provide publicly accessible, daily updated reports on IPv4 address delegations by economy. The Number Resources Organization (NRO), a body created to serve as a coordinating mechanism through which the RIRs act collectively, also provides aggregated addressing data.

The detailed, publicly available data published by the individual RIRs, enables anyone to analyse past IP distribution trends and make future predictions about address consumption. This data is available from:

<http://www.nro.net/statistics>

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APNIC invites Member States to visit the RIR websites linked from the NRO website at:

<http://www.nro.net>

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