

IPv6 via IPv4 Service Provider Networks – "6rd"

Technical & Operational Overview

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IPv4 Address Exhaustion



 see http://www.potaroo.net/tools/ipv4/index.html for more details

Problem: Gap in IPv6 Availabilty



IPv6 via IPv4 SP Networks using "6rd"

- Incremental method for deploying IPv6
- Not an IPv6 "trial" service. IPv6 to subscriber is production-quality, native IPv6 + IPv4 dual-stack
- Reuses IPv4 in the SP No v6 support needed in Access and Aggregation infrastructure, no DHCPv6 servers, no Neighbor Discovery, etc.
- Similar to 6PE in that it provides a native dual-stack service to a subscrbier site by leveraging existing infrastructure, operations, etc.

6rd in One Slide



- Native dual-stack IP service to the Subscriber
- Simple, stateless, automatic IPv6-in-IPv4 encap and decap functions
- IPv6 traffic automatically follows IPv4 Routing
- BRs placed at IPv6 edge, addressed via anycast for load-balancing and resiliency
- Defined in draft-ietf-softwire-ipv6-6rd

Residential Gateway Implementation





- RG configuration, same for all subscribers (via TR-69, DHCP, etc)
 - 1 ISP 6rd IPv6 Prefix and length
 - 2 Common IPv4 bits suffix length
 - 3 6rd Relay IPv4 address (likely anycast)
- "Home side" of RG configured exactly as would be for "native" IPv6, e.g., same as for a DHCPv6 delegated prefix





Single multipoint tunnel interface in Border Relay

No per-user state, serves ALL users in 6rd Domain





BR must have IPv6 reachability (Native, 6PE, GRE Tunnel, etc).

- 1 ISP 6rd IPv6 Prefix and length
- 2 Common IPv4 bits suffix length
- 3 6rd Relay IPv4 address (likely anycast)



- NAT444 + 6rd Border Relay allows IPv6 capable content to flow without taking IPv4 NAT Resources
 - e.g., A MacOS or Vista user surfing to Google maps or Netflix would automatically run via 6rd, not requiring IPv4 NAT state in the CGSE or RG

Gory Details: Three parts of the "6rd" Mechanism

- IPv6 Prefix Delegation derived from IPv4
 Global IPv4 or Natted IPv4 in same deployment
- Stateless mapping and Encapsulation of IPv6 over IPv4 (RFC 4213)

IPv4 encapsulation automatically determined from each packet's IPv6 destination

No per-subscriber tunnel state or provisioning

IPv4 Anycast to reach Border Routers

6rd Automatic Prefix Delegation (From a Global IPv4 Prefix)



6rd Automatic Prefix Delegation (From a Private IPv4 Prefix)



Any number of bits may be masked off, as long as they are common for the entire domain. This is very convienent when deploying with a CGSE, but is equally applicable to aggregated global IPv4 space.

Packet Flow and Encapsulation





Border Relay via Anycast

- 6rd is stateless, so no need for packets within a flow to traverse the same Relay
- Allows use of IPv4 routing for load-balancing, resiliency and redundancy
- Border Relays are installed only in strategic locations where native IPv6 is available:
 - IPv6 Internet uplinks
 - Edge of internal IPv6-enabled network
 - BR placement is a function only of IPv6 traffic, not the number of sites

Standardization Status

- Was defined in draft-townsley-ipv6-6rd-01.txt
- Now, draft-ietf-softwire-ipv6-6rd-00.txt as this now an IETF Standards Track WG document
- Idea has been circulating in the IETF since 2007 when Free Telecom first deployed it based on the invention of Remi Despres (RFC 5569 to be published shortly describing this)
- On track in the Broadband Forum to be part of their IPv6 Technical Recommendations (PD-192 RG Specification) – Strong support from AT&T, Verizon, Swisscom, Fastweb, etc. at meeting

6rd Deployment



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Summary for 6rd

- Like 6PE, delivers Production-Quality IPv6 by only touching edge points around your network
- Capitalizes on what access networks do well, provisioning and transport of IPv4, adapted for carrying IPv6
- Stateless operation, easy to provision, low overhead
- Proven deployment, standardization underway
- Coming soon as part of our "IPv6 Transition Services" in IOS, ASR1K, CGSE, etc...