

ECE 435 – Network Engineering

Lecture 21

Vince Weaver

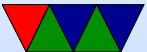
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Announcements

- HW#7 was assigned, due Friday
- Midterm graded (average was 76%)



Related Articles

- https://www.theregister.com/2025/06/27/ipv6_adoption_statistics/



The Internet Protocol v6

- RFC2460 - RFC2466
- Started work in 1991
- Many problems with IPv4. Most notable shortage of addresses.
- IPng. (IPv5 was an experimental stream protocol)
- Migration happening: a large amount of web traffic, especially that from phones, is already switched.
- ***not*** backwards compatible



IPv6 uptake

- As of July 2016 12.5% of traffic is IPv6
- According to Google connecting to network

<https://www.google.com/intl/en/ipv6/statistics.html>

- March 2022: 34%
- March 2024: 43%
- March 2025: 43% (leveling off?)
- March 2026: 45%
- This worldwide, some countries higher (US 48%, India/France 75%)



The Internet Protocol v6 Goals

- Support billions of hosts
- Reduce size of routing tables
- Simplify the protocol (so routers can be faster)
- Better security
- Pay more attention to type of service
- Aid multicasting
- Allow roaming w/o changing address
- Co-exist with existing protocols



Aside: Mythical Man Month

- Book by Fred Brooks, “The Mythical Man Month”
- Described “Second System Syndrome”, when you work on the next version of a project you want to fix everything wrong with the previous, and put in every extra feature that was cut, etc



The Internet Protocol v6 features

- Address size 128 bits
 - a lot of addresses. 7×10^{23} for ever square meter
- Simpler fixed length header (speeds up processing)
 - Many fields not really used in IPv4 dropped (or made optional)
- Better support for options
- Better security support (didn't happen)
 - IPSEC. Originally mandatory, made optional
 - Can encrypt packets at the network layer



- Quality of service (???)
- Anycast (see end of slides)
- Autoconfiguration (DHCP wasn't around yet)
- Minimum fragment size 1280 (up from 576)
- No checksum – was slow and recalculated often

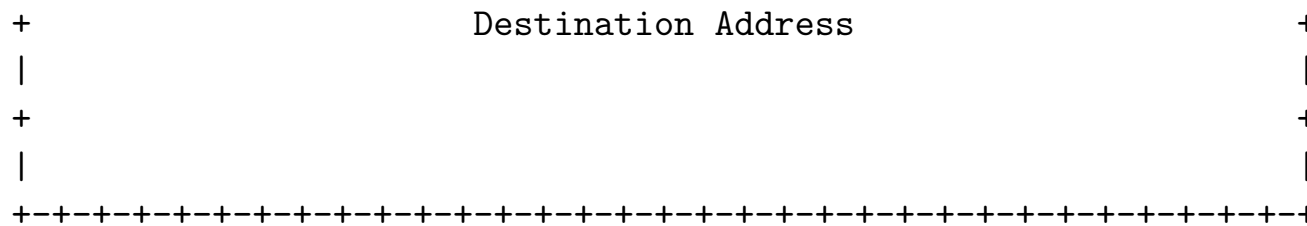


IPv6 header

- Header fixed length of 40 bytes, with Extension headers
- ASCII art from RFC 2460

```
+++++
|Version| Traffic Class |           Flow Label           |
+++++
|           Payload Length           | Next Header | Hop Limit |
+++++
|
+
|
+           Source Address           +
|
+
|
+++++
|
+
|
```





- **Version Number** (1 nibble [4-bits]) = 6
- **Differential Services/Traffic Class** (8-bits) (QoS/congestion control) (6-bit differential services, 2 bits ECN (sort of like recent IPv4?))
- **Flow label** (20-bits) (for streaming?) (Recently for ECMP (Equal Cost Multipath) Line sharing. Sending packets different router paths can be bad with TCP as packets more likely to arrive late/out-of-order. Instead



send all packets with same flow label same path, but balance different paths)

- **Payload Length** (16-bits) 64k (header bytes not counted anymore) (if you want longer, extension for Jumbograms (up to 4GB))
- **Next header** (8-bits) If nothing special identifies TCP or UDP If special options (fragmentation, security) indicated
(TCP=0x6, UDP=0x11)
- **Hop Limit** (8-bits) TTL, big debate about whether 8-bits was enough



- **Source Address** (128-bits)
- **Destination Address** (128-bits)
- Why not 64-bit addresses?
- No checksum: link or transport catches issues
What does this mean for UDP?



IPv6 addresses

- 2^{128} is a lot. 7×10^{23} per m^2 of Earth surface
 - Too long for dotted decimal, use colon hexadecimal
 - Why colons? .BE is a valid domain ending for one...
 - X:X:X:X:X:X:X:X where X is 16-bit chunk
 - F000:0123:5678:0000:0000:ABCD:0001:CAFE
 - Can drop leading zeros, as well as groups of zeros
F000:123:5678::ABCD:1:CAFE
- Note, cannot drop two sets of groups of zeros. Why?
Ambiguous.



IPv6 reserved addresses

- `::1` ip6-localhost, `fe00::0` ip6-localnet
- `fe80::` link-local?
- `2001::` special? reserved?
- `2002::` 6to4 (deprecated)
- `64::` more 6to4 (?)
- `ff00::` multicast



Will IPv6 addresses run out?

- Article about Huawei getting a /17 ipv6 block (a huge amount), to do that a /12 ipv6 block (even more) had to be reserved

https://www.theregister.com/2024/12/06/apnic_huawei_ipv6/

- See

<https://www.iana.org/assignments/ipv6-address-space/ipv6-address-space.xhtml>

for current ipv6 allocations

- Possibly capital one was given a 2630::/16 (1/65536th of the entire space)



IPv6 Options

- Happen immediately after the header.
- Should occur in numerical order (though routers might be able to handle if they don't)
- Routers should inspect in order as some later might depend on earlier.
- Plain: IPV6:Next=TCP, TCP, Data
- Example: IPV6:Next=Routing, Routing:Next=TCP, TCP, Data
- Various types



- Hop-by-hop (so far only used for jumbo frames, if that set header length is set to 0)
- Source Routing
- Fragmentation
- Authentication
- Encryption



IPv6 fragmentation

- Info is in an extension header
- Routers cannot fragment, only at source
- How can this work when not know MTU?
- MTU is always greater than 1280
- Path MTU discovery protocol to discover MTU along the way (RFC 1981). (IPv4 too, set DNF and get error via ICMP) If too big, sends an error back and source needs to fragment it smaller
- Easier for source to handle than every router along way



IPv6/IPv4 compat

- Dual stack – host runs both IPv4 and IPv6
or internal is IPv6 but router converts to IPv4 before passing on
- Tunneling – encapsulate IPv6 inside of IPv4, tunnels across IPv4, split back out to IPv6 on other side of tunnel
- IPv4 mapped to IPv6 with special 96-bit prefix
there are specs for this, not sure if really implemented

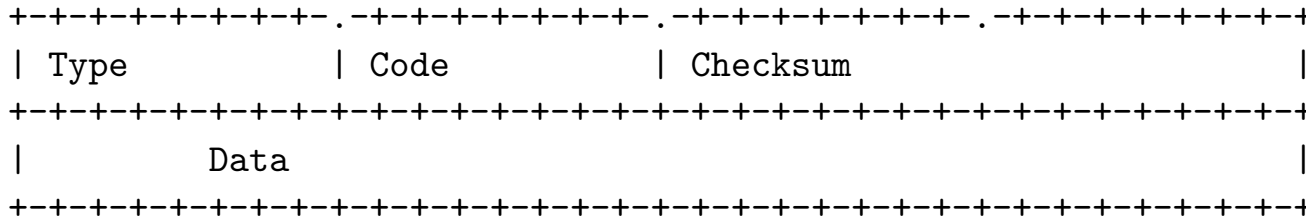


IPv6 Routing

- Much like IPv4
- IPv6 network address, “prefix-length” instead of netmask
- Routing table as before



ICMP6



- Checksum: similar to TCP, also includes pseudo-header
- Type 0, Destination Uncertain
 - Various
- Type 1, Packet too big
- Time Exceeded
- Bad Parameters



- ECHO / ECHO Reply
- Neighbor Discovery Protocol (NDP)
- SEND – Secure Neighbor Discovery Protocol
- Multicast Listener Discovery (MLD)



IPv6 Anycast / Multicast

- We'll talk about this later when we talk about broadcast

