

IPv6 Security

Eric Vyncke, Distinguished Engineer, evyncke@cisco.com



2001:db8::900D/32

A Foreword...

IPv6 Deployment Aggregated Status

As of 2011-11-06 and limited to the top-50 per Top Level Domain extracted from the [Alexa list](#). See the bottom of this page for more information on the tests.

Click on a country to see specific statistics about top sites within this country or click on a flag:



Country	Sample	Green	Orange
Slovenia	50	22.0% (11)	0.0% (0)
Netherlands	50	16.0% (8)	2.0% (1)



DNS

Country	Sample	Green	Orange
Slovenia	50	22.0% (11)	0.0% (0)
Netherlands	50	16.0% (8)	2.0% (1)
Moldova	50	14.0% (7)	0.0% (0)
Switzerland	50	12.0% (6)	4.0% (2)
Indonesia	50	12.0% (6)	0.0% (0)
Netherlands	50	16.0% (8)	0.0% (0)
Norway	50	10.0% (5)	2.0% (1)
Moldova	50	10.0% (5)	0.0% (0)
Seychelles	50	8.0% (4)	0.0% (0)
Cuba	16	6.2% (1)	0.0% (0)
Country	Sample	Green	Orange
Tunisia	50	78.0% (39)	0.0% (0)
Finland	50	44.0% (22)	2.0% (1)
Poland	50	40.0% (20)	0.0% (0)
Czech Republic	50	38.0% (19)	2.0% (1)
Cuba	16	27.5% (4)	0.0% (0)

Agenda

- Security Myths of IPv6



IPv6 Myths: Better, Faster, More Secure



1995: RFC 1883



2011: IPv6

Is IPv6 (a teenager) really 'better and more secure'?
Eric: a father of two teenagers (16 & 19)...

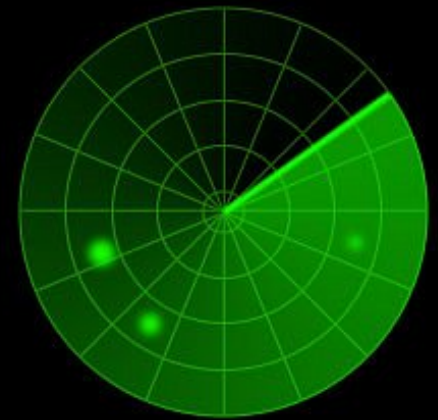
The Absence of Reconnaissance Myth

- Default subnets in IPv6 have 2^{64} addresses
 - 10 Mpps = more than 50 000 years
- NMAP doesn't even support ping sweeps on IPv6 networks (but let's wait)



Reconnaissance in IPv6

Scanning Methods Are Likely to Change



- Public servers will still need to be DNS reachable
 - ⇒ More information collected by Google...
- Increased deployment/reliance on dynamic DNS
 - ⇒ More information will be in DNS
- Using peer-to-peer clients gives IPv6 addresses of peers
- Administrators may adopt easy-to-remember addresses (::10, ::20, ::F00D, ::C5C0 or simply IPv4 last octet for dual stack)
- By compromising hosts in a network, an attacker can learn new addresses to scan
- Transition techniques (see further) derive IPv6 address from IPv4 address
 - ⇒ can scan again

Viruses and Worms in IPv6



- Viruses and email, IM worms: IPv6 brings no change
- Other worms:
 - IPv4: reliance on network scanning
 - IPv6: not so easy (see reconnaissance) => will use alternative techniques

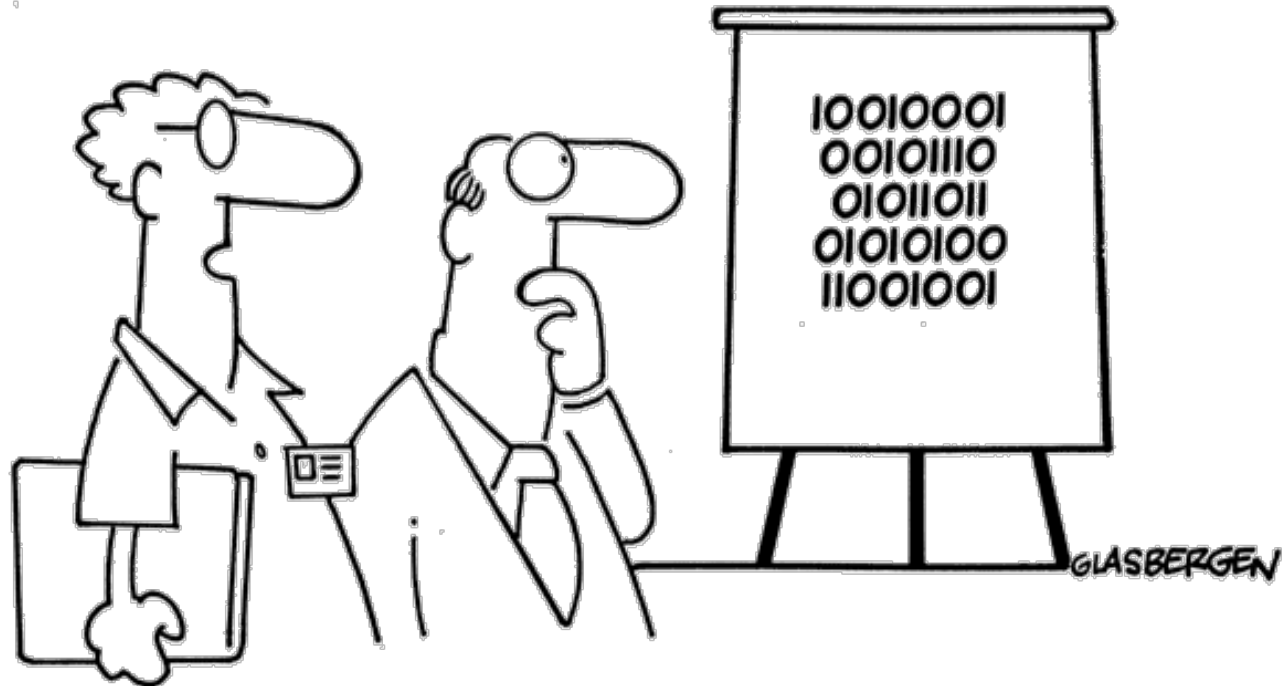
- Worm developers will adapt to IPv6
- IPv4 best practices around worm detection and mitigation remain valid

Scanning Made Bad for CPU

- Potential router CPU attacks if aggressive scanning
Router will do Neighbor Discovery... And waste CPU and memory
(Cisco) Built-in rate limiter but no option to tune it
- Using a /64 on **point-to-point links** => a lot of addresses to scan!
Using /127 could help (RFC 6164)
- **Internet edge/presence**: a target of choice
Ingress ACL permitting traffic to specific statically configured (virtual) IPv6 addresses only
- Using infrastructure ACL prevents this scanning
iACL: edge ACL denying packets addressed to your routers
Easy with IPv6 because new addressing scheme can be done 😊

The IPsec Myth: IPsec End-to-End will Save the World

- IPv6 mandates the implementation of IPsec
- Some organizations believe that IPsec should be used to secure all flows...



**“We’ve devised a new security encryption code.
Each digit is printed upside down.”**

The IPsec Reality: IPsec End-to-End will Not Save the World

- IPv6 mandates the implementation of IPsec (IETF 6MAN WG working change it)
- IPv6 does not require the use of IPsec
- Some organizations believe that IPsec should be used to secure all flows...

Interesting **scalability** issue (n^2 issue with IPsec)

Need to **trust endpoints and end-users** because the network cannot secure the traffic: no IPS, no ACL, no firewall

Network **telemetry is blinded**: NetFlow/IPFIX of little use

Network **services hindered**: what about QoS?

Recommendation: do not use IPsec end to end within an administrative domain.

Suggestion: Reserve IPsec for residential or hostile environment or high profile targets.

The No Amplification Attack Myth IPv6 and Broadcasts

- There are no broadcast addresses in IPv6
- Broadcast address functionality is replaced with appropriate link local multicast addresses

Link Local All Nodes Multicast—FF02::1

Link Local All Routers Multicast—FF02::2

Link Local All mDNS Multicast—FF02::FB

Note: anti-spoofing also blocks amplification attacks because a remote attacker cannot masquerade as his victim



<http://iana.org/assignments/ipv6-multicast-addresses/>

IPv6 and Other Amplification Vectors

- RFC 4443 ICMPv6

No ping-pong on a physical point-to-point link Section 3.1

*No ICMP **error** message should be generated in response to a packet with a multicast destination address Section 2.4 (e.3)*

Exceptions for Section 2.4 (e.3)

- *packet too big message*
- *the parameter problem message*

*ICMP **information** message (echo reply) should be generated even if destination is multicast*

- **Rate Limit egress ICMP Packets**
- **Rate limit ICMP messages generation**
- **Secure the multicast network (source specific multicast)**
- **Note: Implement Ingress Filtering of Packets with IPv6 Multicast Source Addresses**

IPv6 Attacks with Strong IPv4 Similarities

- **Sniffing**

IPv6 is no more or less likely to fall victim to a sniffing attack than IPv4

- **Application layer attacks**

The majority of vulnerabilities on the Internet today are at the application layer, something that IPsec will do nothing to prevent

- **Rogue devices**

Rogue devices will be as easy to insert into an IPv6 network as in IPv4

- **Man-in-the-Middle Attacks (MITM)**

Without strong mutual authentication, any attacks utilizing MITM will have the same likelihood in IPv6 as in IPv4

- **Flooding**

Flooding attacks are identical between IPv4 and IPv6

IPv6 Stack Vulnerabilities

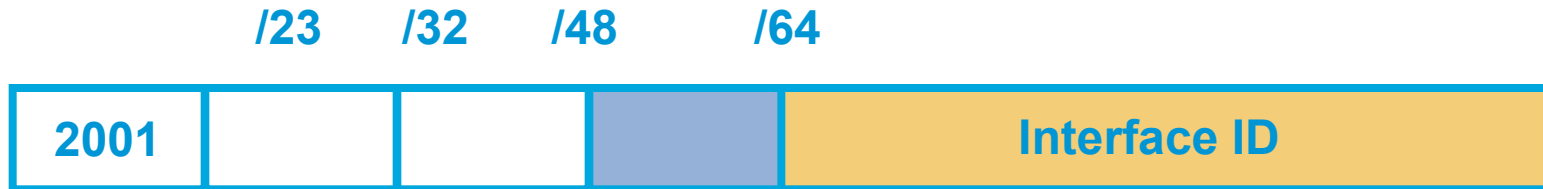
- IPv6 stacks were new and could be buggy
- Some examples



CVE-2009-2208	Jun 2009	FreeBSD OpenBSD NetBSD and others	Local users can disable IPv6 without privileges
CVE-2010-1188	Mar 2010	Linux	DoS for socket() manipulation
CVE-2010-4684	Jan 2011	IOS	IPv6 TFTP crashes when debugging
CVE-2008-1576	Jun 2008	Apple Mac OS X	Buffer overflow in Mail over IPv6
CVE-2010-4669	Jan 2011	Microsoft	Flood of forged RA DoS

Specific IPv6 Issues

IPv6 Privacy Extensions (RFC 3041)



- Temporary addresses for IPv6 host client application, e.g. web browser
 - Inhibit device/user tracking
 - Random 64 bit interface ID, then run Duplicate Address Detection before using it
 - Rate of change based on local policy

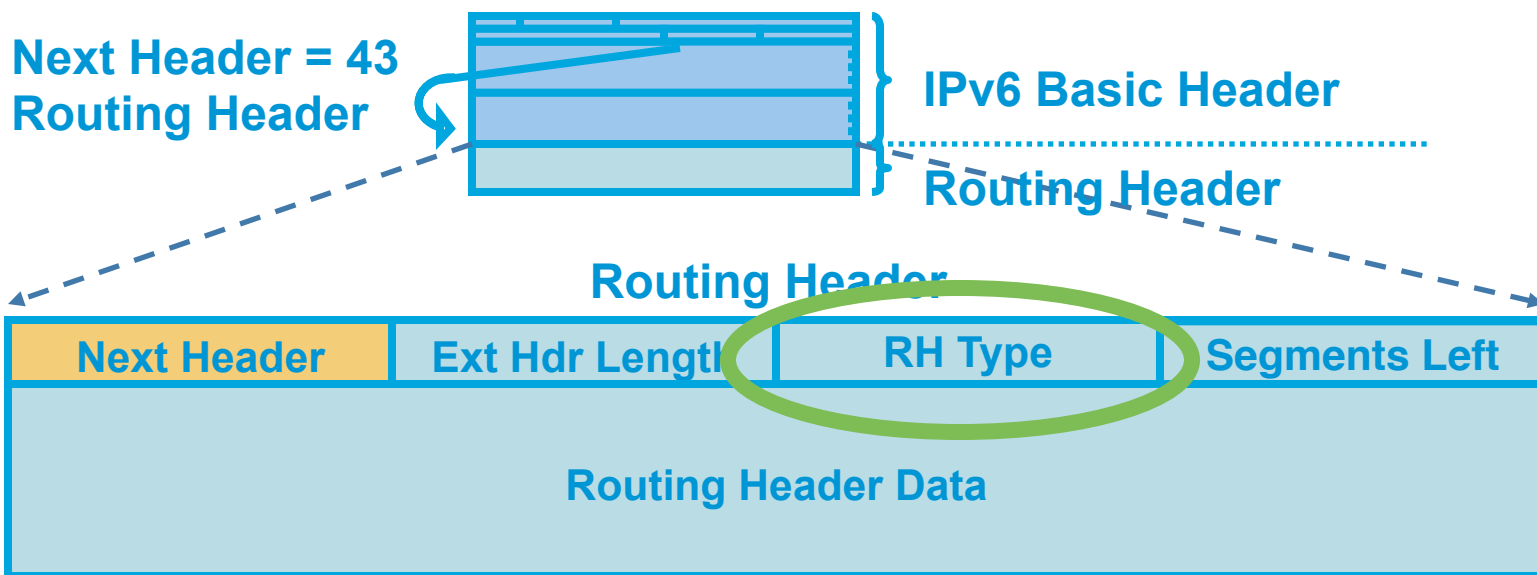
Recommendation: Use Privacy Extensions for External Communication but not for Internal Networks (Troubleshooting and Attack Trace Back)

IPv6 Routing Header

- An extension header
- Processed by the listed intermediate routers
- Two types

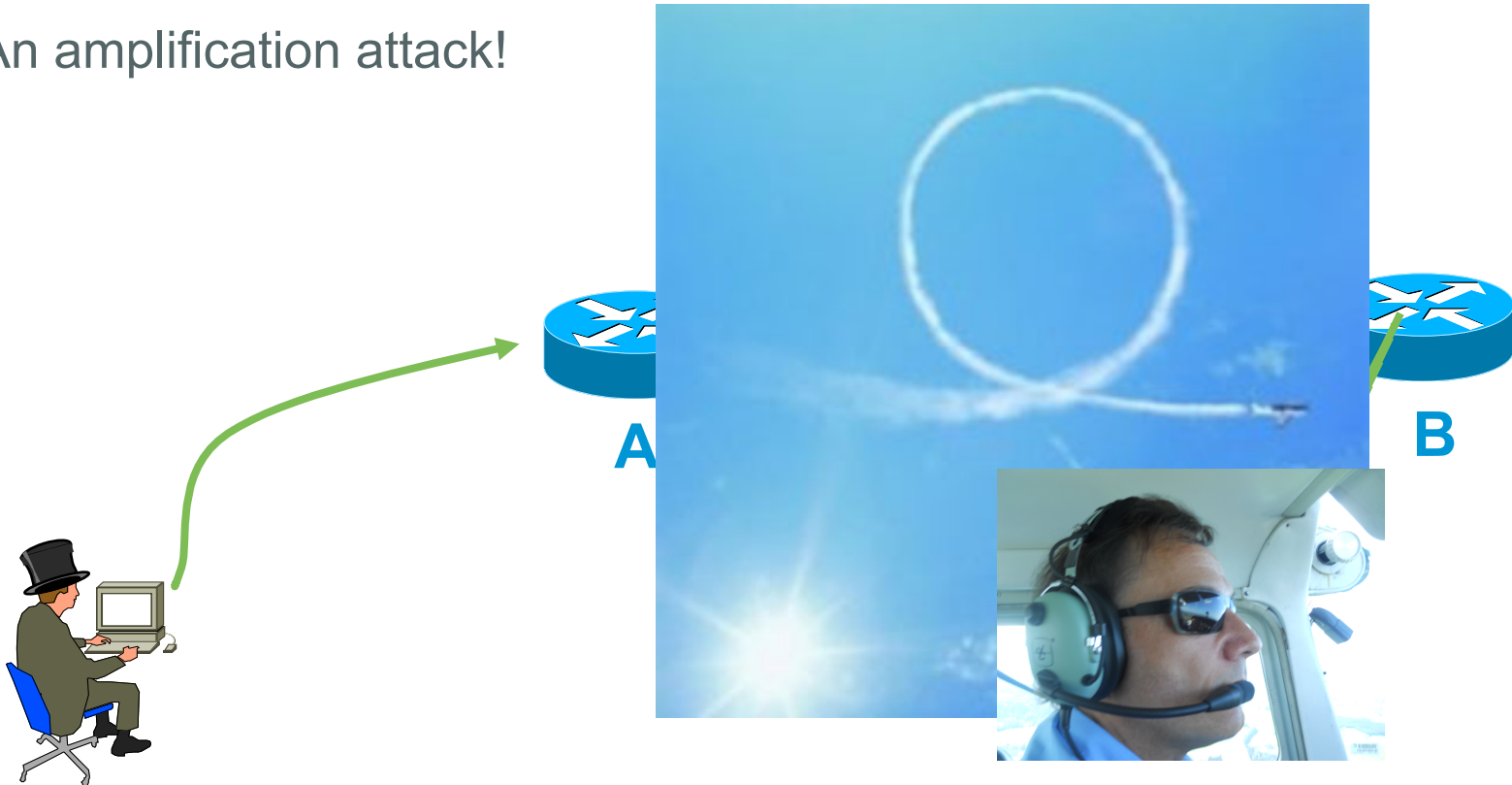
Type 0: similar to IPv4 source routing (multiple intermediate routers)

Type 2: used for mobile IPv6



Type 0 Routing Header Amplification Attack

- What if attacker sends a packet with RH containing
A -> B -> A -> B -> A -> B -> A -> B -> A
- Packet will loop multiple time on the link A-B
- An amplification attack!



Preventing Routing Header Attacks

- Apply same policy for IPv6 as for Ipv4:
Block Routing Header type 0
- Prevent processing at the intermediate nodes
no ipv6 source-route
Windows, Linux, Mac OS: default setting
IOS-XR before 4.0: a bug prevented the processing of RH0
IOS before 12.4(15)T: by default RH0 were processed
- At the edge
With an ACL blocking routing header
- RFC 5095 (Dec 2007) RH0 is deprecated
Default changed in IOS 12.4(15)T and IOS-XR 4.0 to ignore and drop RH0

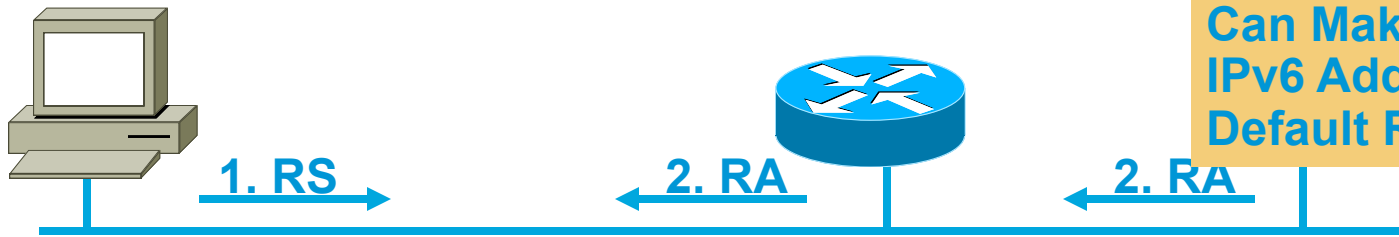
Neighbor Discovery Issue#1 Stateless Autoconfiguration

Router Solicitations Are Sent by Booting Nodes to Request Router Advertisements for Stateless Address Auto-Configuring

RA/RS w/o Any Authentication Gives Exactly Same Level of Security as ARP for IPv4 (None)

Attack Tool:
`fake_router6`

Can Make Any IPv6 Address the Default Router



1. RS:

Src = ::
Dst = All-Routers
multicast Address
ICMP Type = 133
Data = Query: please send RA

2. RA:

Src = Router Link-local
Address
Dst = All-nodes multicast
address
ICMP Type = 134
Data= options, prefix, lifetime,
`autoconfig` flag

Neighbor Discovery Issue#2 Neighbor Solicitation



Src = A
Dst = Solicited-node multicast of B
ICMP type = 135
Data = link-layer address of A
Query: what is your link address?

Src = B
Dst = A
ICMP type = 136
Data = link-layer address of B

**A and B Can Now Exchange
Packets on This Link**

**Security Mechanisms
Built into Discovery
Protocol = None**

=> Very similar to ARP

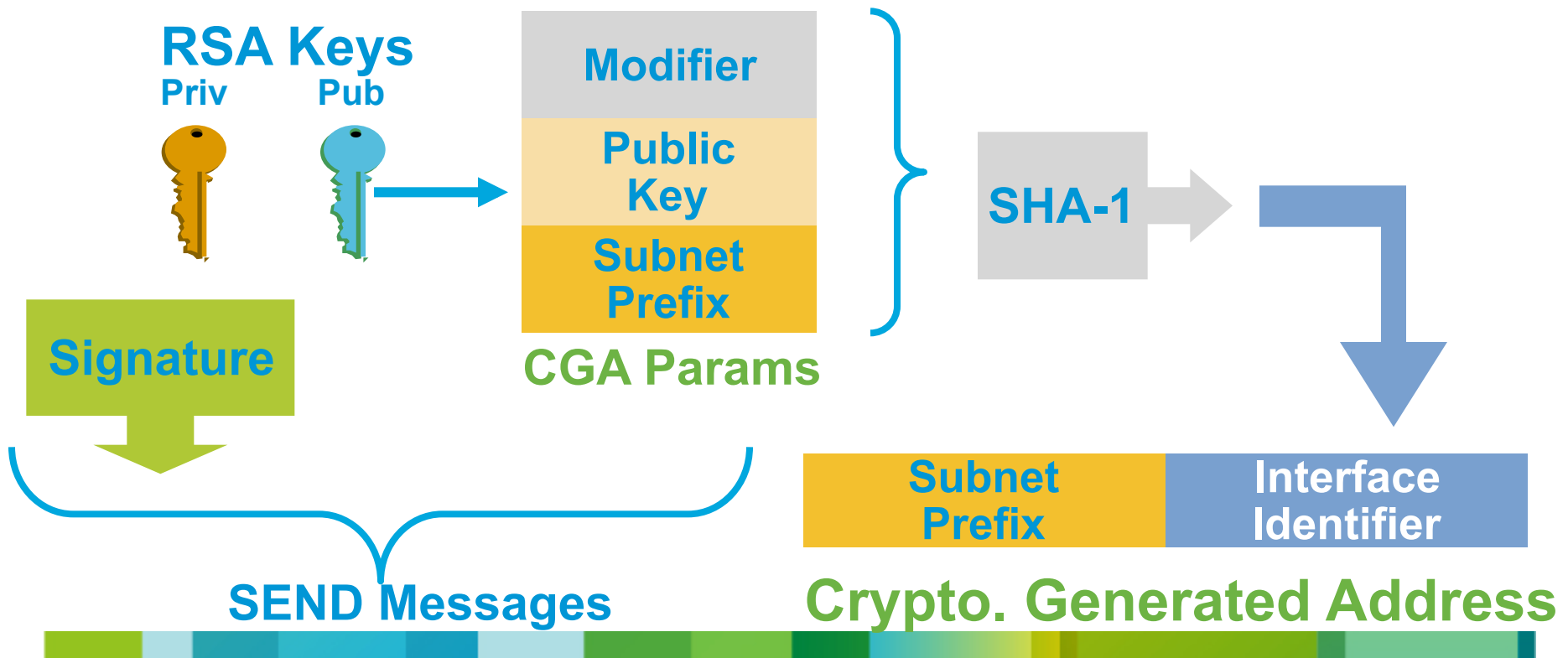
**Attack Tool:
Parasite6
Answer to all NS,
Claiming to Be All
Systems in the LAN...**

ARP Spoofing is now NDP Spoofing: Mitigation

- **SEMI-BAD NEWS:** nothing yet like dynamic ARP inspection for IPv6
First phase (Port ACL & RA Guard) available since Summer 2010
Second phase (NDP & DHCP snooping) starting to be available since Summer 2011
http://www.cisco.com/en/US/docs/ios/ipv6/configuration/guide/ip6-first_hop_security.html
- **GOOD NEWS:** Secure Neighbor Discovery
SEND = NDP + crypto
IOS 12.4(24)T
But not in Windows Vista, 2008 and 7, Mac OS/X, iOS, Android
Crypto means slower...
- Other **GOOD NEWS:**
Private VLAN works with IPv6
Port security works with IPv6
801.x works with IPv6 (except downloadable ACL)

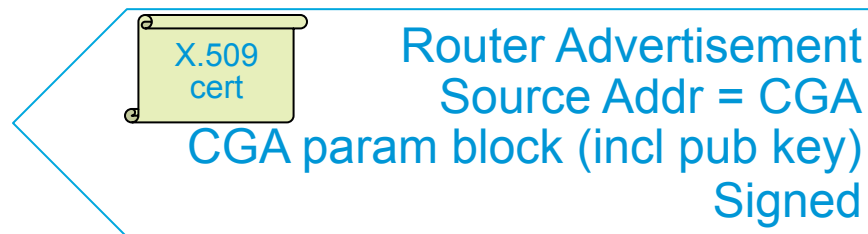
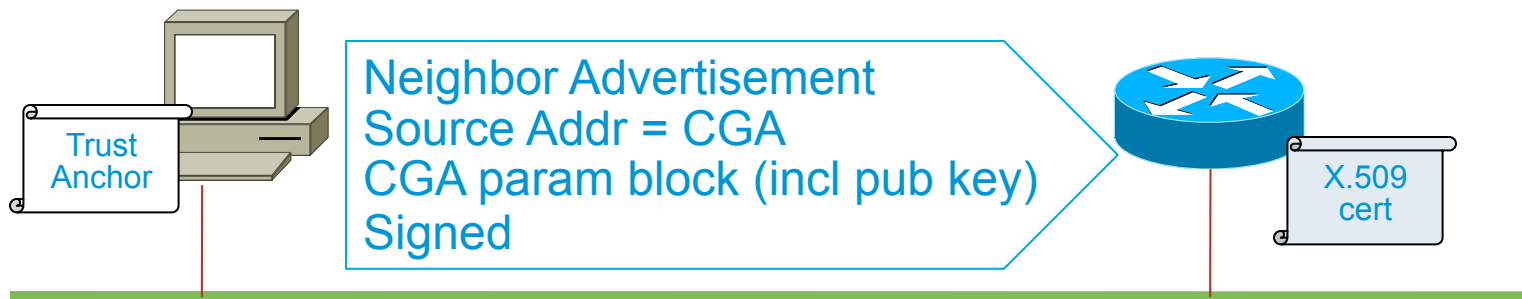
Cryptographically Generated Addresses CGA RFC 3972 (Simplified)

- Each devices has a RSA key pair (no need for cert)
- Ultra light check for validity
- Prevent spoofing a valid CGA address



Securing Neighbor and Router Advertisements with SEND

- Adding a X.509 certificate to RA
- Subject Name contains the list of authorized IPv6 prefixes



Securing Link Operations: on Nodes as per Original Specification ?

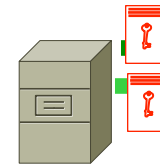
- **Advantages**

- No central administration, no central operation
- No bottleneck, no single-point of failure
- Intrinsic part of the link-operations
- Efficient for threats coming from the link

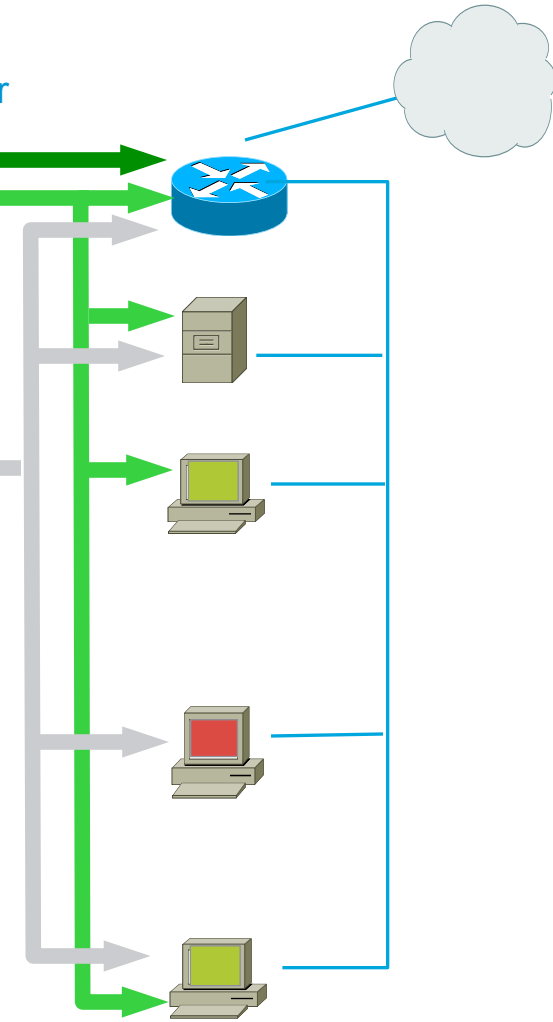
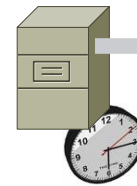
- **Disadvantages**

- Heavy provisioning of end-nodes
- Poor for threats coming from outside the link
- Bootstrapping issue
- Complexity spread all over the domain.
- Transitioning quite painful

Certificate server



Time server



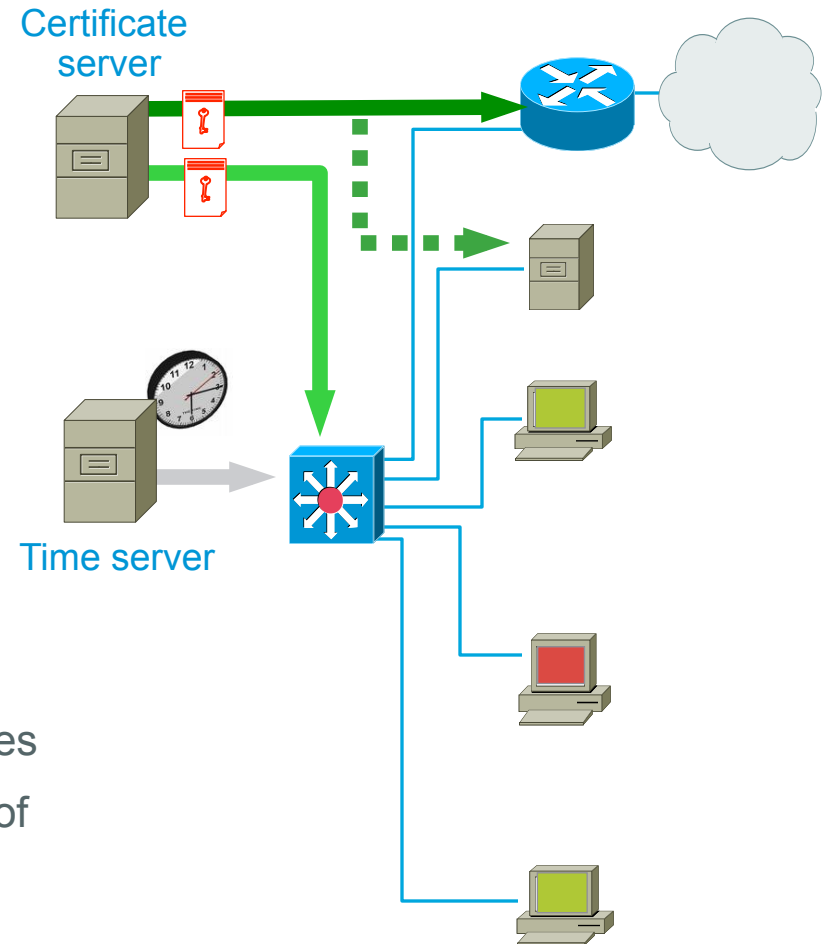
Securing Link Operations: First Hop Trusted Device

- **Advantages**

- central administration, central operation
- Complexity limited to first hop
- Transitioning lot easier
- Efficient for threats coming from the link
- Efficient for threats coming from outside

- **Disadvantages**

- Applicable only to certain topologies
- Requires first-hop to learn about end-nodes
- First-hop is a bottleneck and single-point of failure



IPv6 Header Manipulation

- Unlimited size of header chain (spec-wise) can make filtering difficult
- Potential DoS with poor IPv6 stack implementations
 - More boundary conditions to exploit
 - Can I overrun buffers with a lot of extension headers?

⊕ Frame 1 (423 bytes on wire, 423 bytes captured)

⊕ Raw packet data

⊕ Internet Protocol Version 6

⊕ Hop-by-hop Option Header

⊕ Destination Option Header

⊕ Routing Header, Type 0

⊕ Hop-by-hop Option Header

⊕ Destination Option Header

⊕ Routing Header, Type 0

⊕ Destination Option Header

⊕ Routing Header, Type 0

⊕ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 1024 (1024), Dst Port: bgp (179), Seq: 0, Ack: 0, Len: 51

⊕ Border Gateway Protocol

Perfectly Valid IPv6 Packet According to the Sniffer

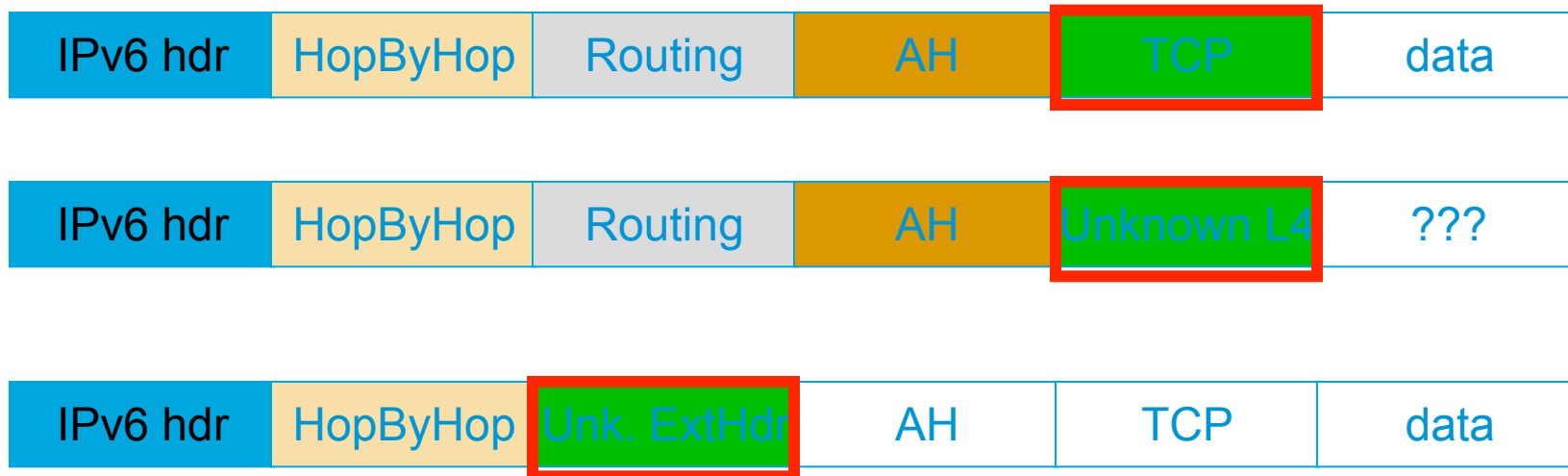
Header Should Only Appear Once

Destination Header Which Should Occur at Most Twice

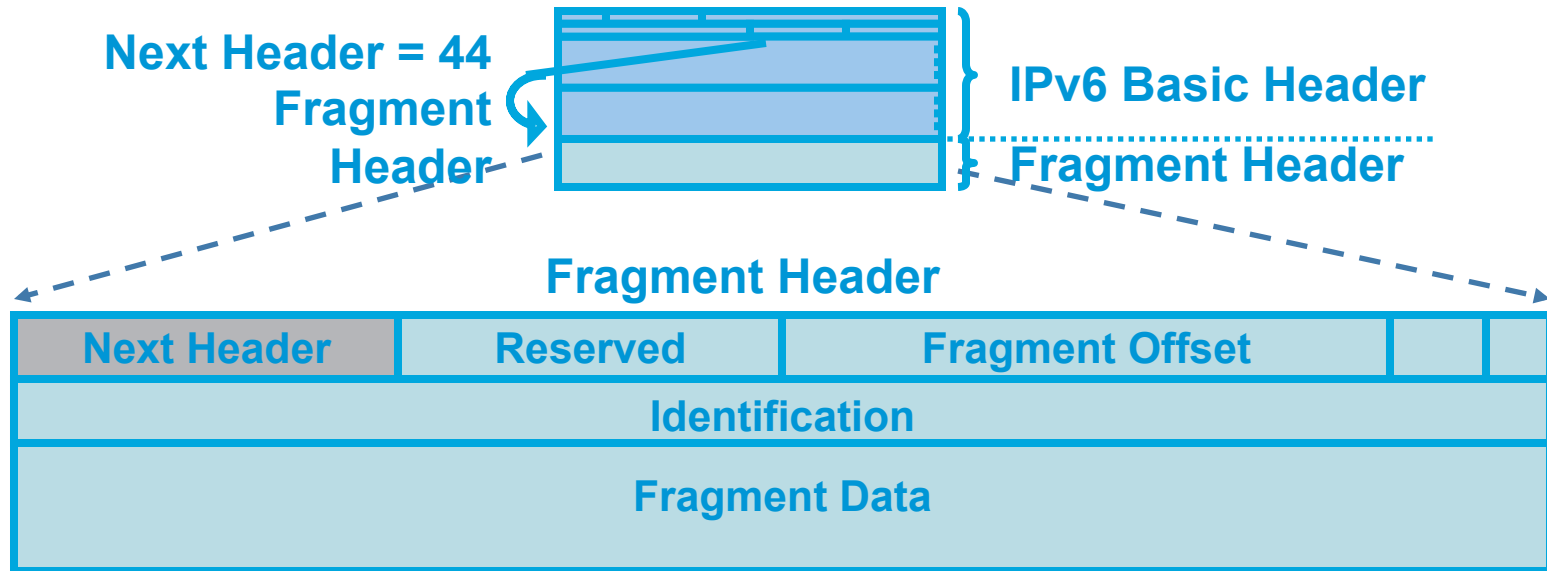
Destination Options Header Should Be the Last

Parsing the Extension Header Chain

- Finding the layer 4 information is not trivial in IPv6
 - Skip all known extension header
 - Until either known layer 4 header found => **SUCCESS**
 - Or unknown extension header/layer 4 header found... => **FAILURE**



Fragment Header: IPv6



- In IPv6 fragmentation is done **only** by the end system
Tunnel end-points are end systems => Fragmentation / re-assembly can happen inside the network
- Reassembly done by end system like in IPv4
- RFC 5722: overlapping fragments => **MUST** drop the packet. Alas, not implemented by popular OS
- Attackers can still fragment in intermediate system on purpose
- ==> a great obfuscation tool

Parsing the Extension Header Chain Fragmentation Matters!

- Extension headers chain can be so large than it is fragmented!
- RFC 3128 is not applicable to IPv6
- Layer 4 information could be in 2nd fragment



Layer 4 header is
in 2nd fragment

Parsing the Extension Header Chain Fragments and Stateless Filters

- RFC 3128 is not applicable to IPv6
- Layer 4 information could be in 2nd fragment
- But, stateless firewalls could not find it if a previous extension header is fragmented



Layer 4 header is in 2nd fragment,
Stateless filters have no clue
where to find it!

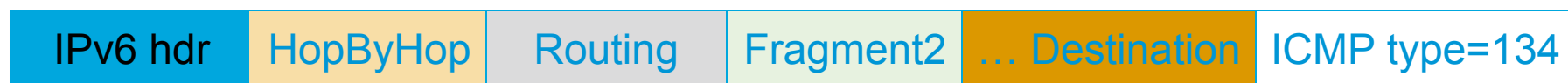
IPv6 Fragmentation & IOS ACL Fragment Keyword

- This makes matching against the first fragment **non-deterministic**:
 - layer 4 header might not be there but in a later fragment
 - ⇒ Need for stateful inspection
- **fragment** keyword matches
 - Non-initial fragments (same as IPv4)
 - And** the first fragment if the L4 protocol cannot be determined
- **underterminated-transport** keyword matches
 - Only for deny ACE
 - first** fragment if the L4 protocol cannot be determined

Parsing the Extension Header Chain

Fragments and Stateless Filters (RA Guard)

- RFC 3128 is not applicable to IPv6, extension header can be fragmented
- ICMP header could be in 2nd fragment after a fragmented extension header
- RA Guard works like a stateless ACL filtering ICMP type 134
- THC `fake_router6 -FD` implements this attack which bypasses RA Guard
- Partial work-around: block all fragments sent to ff02::1

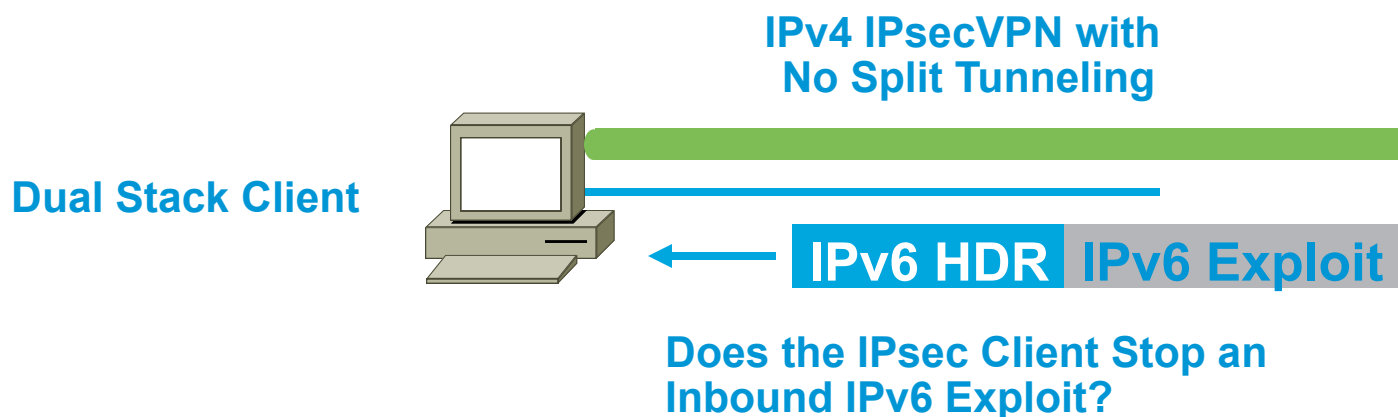


ICMP header is in 2nd fragment,
RA Guard has no clue where to
find it!

Transition to IPv6 Issues

Dual Stack Host Considerations

- Host security on a dual-stack device
 - Applications can be subject to attack on both IPv6 and IPv4
 - Fate sharing**: as secure as the least secure stack...
- Host security controls should block and inspect traffic from both IP versions
 - Host intrusion prevention, personal firewalls, VPN clients, etc.



Getting Bored at the BRU Airport...



Santé ! Gezondheid ! Cheers!

But a glass longs only 10 minutes

Bored again...

Still Bored at BRU Airport

```
$ ifconfig en1
en1: flags=8863<UP,BROADCAST,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    ether 00:26:bb:00:00:00
    inet6 fe80::226:bb:00:00 scopeid 0x6
    inet 10.19.19.11 netmask 255.255.255.0 broadcast 10.19.19.255
    media: autoselect
    status: active
```

Humm...
Is there an IPv6 Network?

```
$ ping6 -I en1 ff02::1%en1
PING6(56=40+8+8 bytes) fe80::226:bb:00:00:1%en1 to ff02::1
16 bytes from fe80::226:bb:00:00:1: icmp=64 time=0.140 ms
. . .
16 bytes from fe80::ca:0:0:0:1: icmp=64 time=402.112 ms
^C
--- ff02::1%en1 ping6 statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 packets received, +142 duplicates, 0.0% packet loss
round-trip min/avg/max/std-dev = 0.140/316.721/2791.178/412.276 ms
```

Humm...
Are there any IPv6 peers?

```
$ ndp -an
Neighbor table for fe80::226:bb:00:00:1%en1
2001::1
. . .
$ ndp -an
64
```

Let's have some fun here... Configure a tunnel, enable forwarding and transmit RA

Dual Stack with Enabled IPv6 by Default

- Your host:
 - IPv4 is protected by your favorite personal firewall...
 - IPv6 is enabled by default (Vista, Linux, Mac OS/X, ...)
- Your network:
 - Does not run IPv6
- Your assumption:
 - I'm safe
- Reality
 - You are **not** safe
 - Attacker sends Router Advertisements
 - Your host configures silently to IPv6
 - You are now under IPv6 attack
- => Probably time to think about IPv6 in your network

Looping Attack Between 2 ISATAP routers



ISATAP router 1
Prefix 2001:db8:1::/64
192.0.2.1



ISATAP router 2
Prefix 2001:db8:2::/64
192.0.2.2

1. Spoofed IPv6 packet
S: 2001:db8:2::200:5efe:c000:201
D: 2001:db8:1::200:5efe:c000:202

2. IPv4 ISATAP packet to 192.0.0.2 containing
S: 2001:db8:2::200:5efe:c000:201
D: 2001:db8:1::200:5efe:c000:202

3 IPv6 packet
S: 2001:db8:2::200:5efe:c000:201
D: 2001:db8:1::200:5efe:c000:202

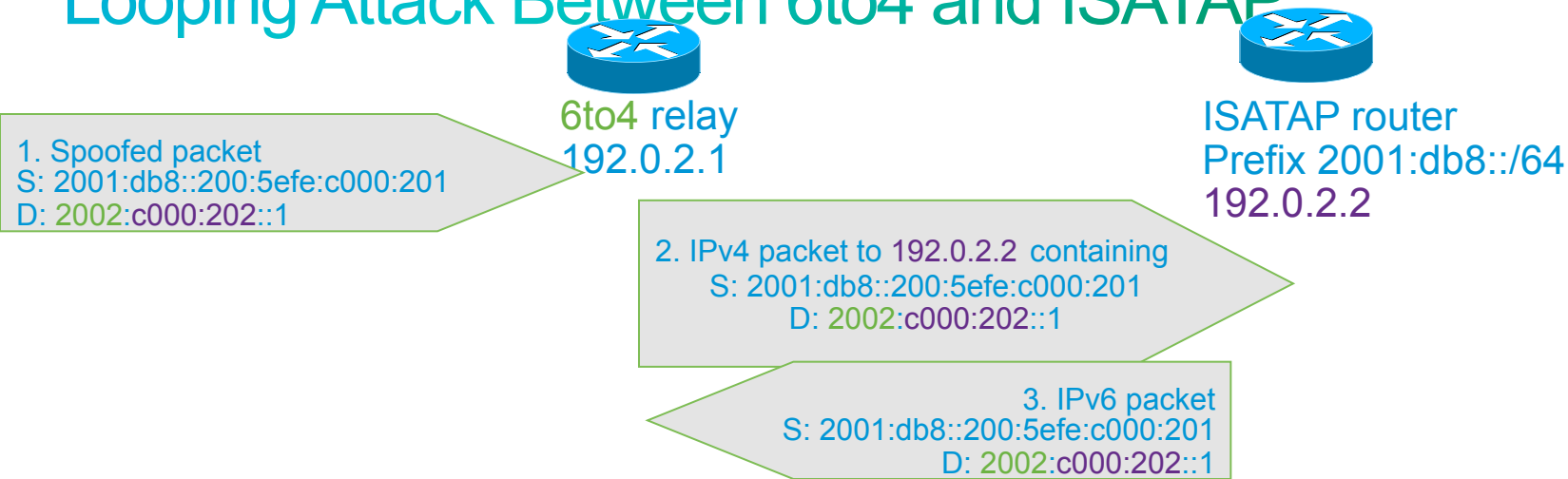
Repeat until Hop Limit == 0

- Root cause
 - ISATAP routers ignore each other
- ISATAP router:
 - accepts native IPv6 packets
 - forwards it inside its ISATAP tunnel
 - Other ISATAP router decaps and forward as native IPv6

Mitigation:

- IPv6 anti-spoofing everywhere
- ACL on ISATAP routers accepting IPv4 from valid clients only
- Within an enterprise, block IPv4 ISATAP traffic between ISATAP routers
- Within an enterprise block IPv6 packets between ISATAP routers

Looping Attack Between 6to4 and ISATAP



Repeat until Hop Limit == 0

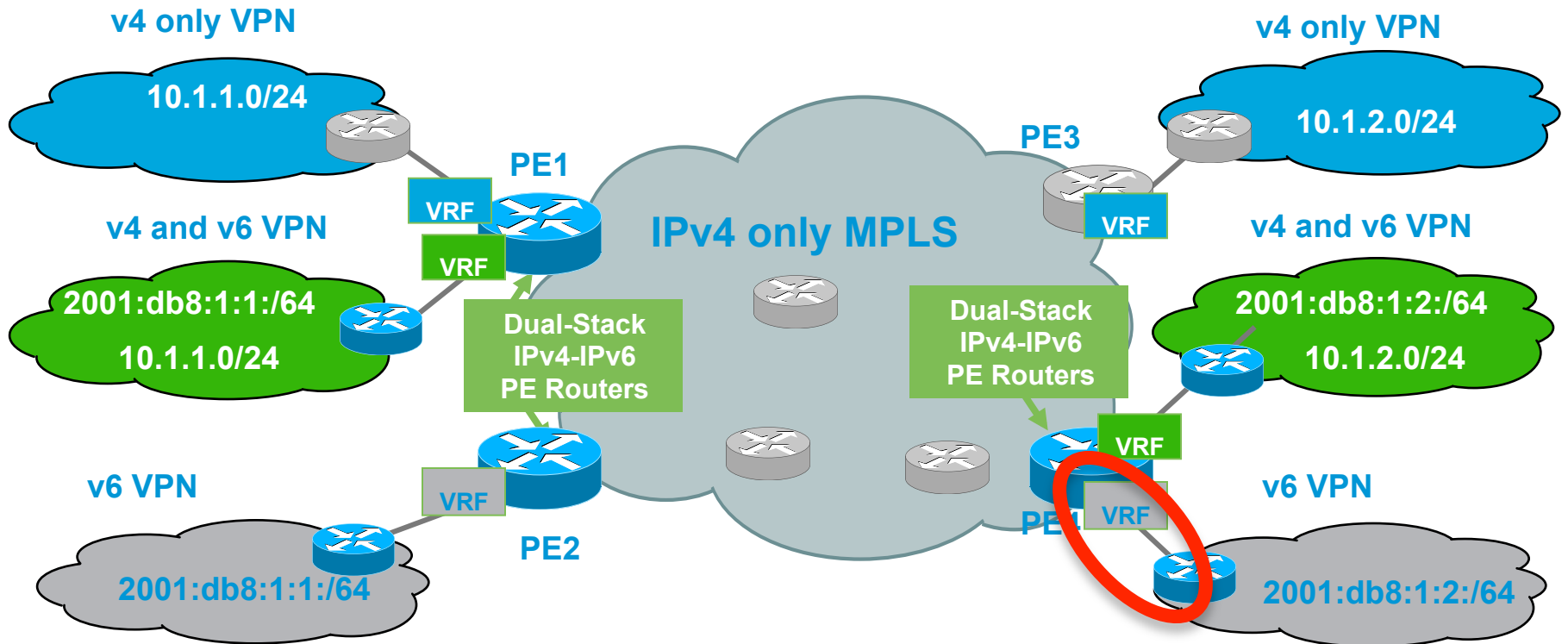
- Root cause
 - Same IPv4 encapsulation (protocol 41)
 - Different ways to embed IPv4 address in the IPv6 address
- ISATAP router:
 - accepts 6to4 IPv4 packets
 - Can forward the inside IPv6 packet back to 6to4 relay
- Symmetric looping attack exists

Mitigation:

- Easy on ISATAP routers: deny packets whose IPv6 is its 6to4
- Less easy on 6to4 relay: block all ISATAP-like local address?
- Enterprise block all protocol 41 at the edge which are not known tunnels
- Good news: not so many open ISATAP routers on the Internet

SP Transition Mechanism: 6VPE

- 6VPE: the MPLS-VPN extension to also transport IPv6 traffic over a MPLS cloud and IPv4 BGP sessions



6VPE Security

- 6PE (dual stack without VPN) is a simple case
- Security is identical to IPv4 MPLS-VPN, see RFC 4381
- Security depends on correct operation and implementation
 - QoS prevent flooding attack from one VPN to another one
 - PE routers must be secured: AAA, iACL, CoPP ...
- **MPLS backbones can be more secure than “normal” IP backbones**
 - Core not accessible from outside
 - Separate control and data planes
- PE security
 - Advantage: Only PE-CE interfaces accessible from outside
 - Makes security easier than in “normal” networks
 - IPv6 advantage: PE-CE interfaces can use link-local for routing**
 - => completely unreachable from remote (better than IPv4)**

Security Controls DO Exist in 2011!

For Example Summary of Cisco IPv6 Security Products

- ASA Firewall
 - Since version 7.0 (released 2005)
 - Flexibility: Dual stack, IPv6 only, IPv4 only
 - SSL VPN for IPv6 (ASA 8.0)
 - Stateful-Failover (ASA 8.2.2)
 - Extension header filtering and inspection (ASA 8.4.2)
- FWSM
 - IPv6 in software... 80 Mbps ... Not an option (put an IPv6-only ASA in parallel or migrate to ASA-SM)
- IOS Firewall
 - IOS 12.3(7)T (released 2005)
 - Zone-based firewall on IOS-XE 3.6 (2012)
- IPS
 - Since 6.2 (released 2008), management over IPv6: Q1 2012
- Email Security Appliance (ESA) under beta testing early 2010, shipping Q4 2011
- Web Security Appliance (WSA) Q1 2012
- ScanSafe Q1 2012

Security Controls DO Exist in 2011!

Secure IPv6 over IPv4/6 Public Internet

- No traffic sniffing
- No traffic injection
- No service theft

Public Network	Site 2 Site	Remote Access
IPv4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 6in4/GRE Tunnels Protected by IPsec ▪ DMVPN 12.4(20)T 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ISATAP Protected by RA IPsec ▪ SSL VPN Client AnyConnect
IPv6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPsec VTI 12.4(6)T • <i>DMVPN 15.2(1)T</i> 	<i>Any Connect H1 2012</i>

Best Common Practices



Candidate Best Practices

- **Train your network operators and security managers on IPv6**
- **Selectively filter ICMP** (RFC 4890)
- Implement RFC 2827-like filtering
- Block Type 0 Routing Header at the edge
- Determine what extension headers will be allowed through the access control device
- Use traditional authentication mechanisms on BGP and IS-IS
- Use IPsec to secure protocols such as OSPFv3 and RIPng
- Document procedures for last-hop traceback



For Your
Reference

Candidate Best Practices (Cont.)

- Implement privacy extensions carefully
- Filter internal-use IPv6 addresses & ULA at the border routers
- Filter unneeded services at the firewall
- Maintain host and application security
- Use cryptographic protections where critical
- Implement ingress filtering of packets with IPv6 multicast source addresses
- Use static tunneling rather than dynamic tunneling
- Implement outbound filtering on firewall devices to allow only authorized tunneling endpoints

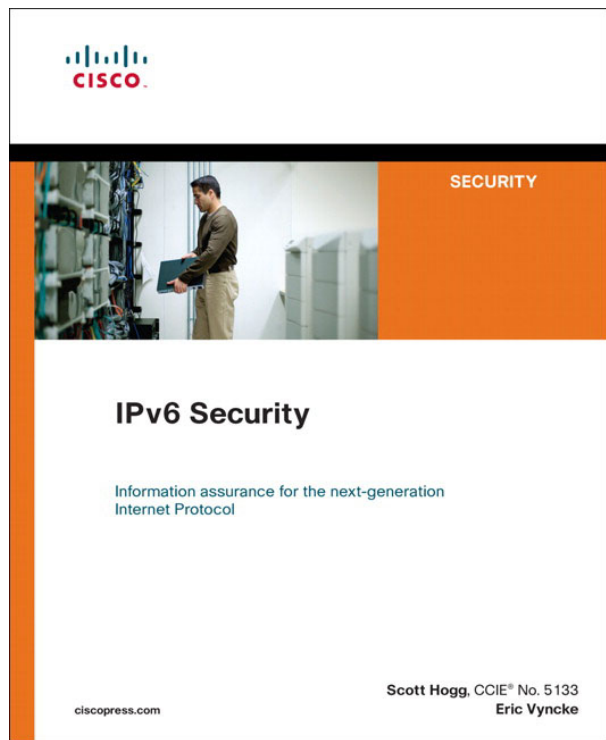
Summary

Key Take Away

- So, nothing really new in IPv6
 - Reconnaissance: address enumeration replaced by DNS enumeration
 - Spoofing & bogons: uRPF is our IP-agnostic friend
 - NDP spoofing: RA guard and more feature coming
 - Extension headers: firewall & ACL can process them
 - Amplification attacks by multicast mostly impossible
 - Potential loops between tunnel endpoints: ACL must be used
- Lack of operation experience may hinder security for a while: **training is required**
- Security enforcement is possible
 - Control your IPv6 traffic as you do for IPv4
- Leverage IPsec to secure IPv6 when suitable

Questions and Answers?

Recommended Reading



Source: Cisco Press

Congratulations!

IPv6-enabled Web Sites in Slovenia (2011-11-07)

■ AAAA for www.* reachable
■ AAAA for alternative FQDN reachable



I am trusting you that those sites are 99.99% secure...

Thank you.

