





10th SLO IPv6 summit Ljubljana, 9th June 2015

IPv6 impact on Information society development

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Table of content

- 1) Why Internet Protocol Version 6?
- 2) Why IPv6 is relevant from societal perspective?
- 3) Internet e-access
- 4) The governance of the IPv6 Internet
- 5) Deployment of the IPv6 Internet
- 6) Contemporary discussion

Why Internet Protocol Version 6?

- to provide more addresses for Internetlinked sites (problem of IPv4 address exhaustion);
- other technical benefits (internet of things, device mobility, improved services etc.).

Why IPv6 is relevant from societal perspective?*

- internet e-access (the right to an IP address)
- the governance of the IPv6 Internet (power and interests)
- deployment of the IPv6 Internet (public awareness)

Can political democracy benefit from Internet Protocol Version 6?

^{*} Zielinski, Chris. 2006. Social and Ethical Aspects of IPv6. In *The Information Society: Emerging Landscapes*. IFIP International Conference on Landscapes of ICT and Social Accountability, Turku, Finland.

Internet e-access

- IP address is a precondition to use the Internet (information & services access);
- problem of IPv4 address exhaustion will contribute to technological side of digital exclusion (divide) of disadvantaged social groups and less developed countries (information poor);
- e.g. there are 7.3 billion people on the planet and there are only have 4.3 billion IPv4 addresses.

Right to access and transmit (on-line) information / data is required for an active citizenship (informed e-participation)!

The governance of the IPv6 Internet (I.)

- the concentration of IP addresses in western postindustrialized countries;

e.g. USA has 1.6 billion addresses, China has 335.6 million addresses, India has 34.6 million addresses, Slovenia has 2.5 million addresses

(source: https://www.countryipblocks.net/allocation-of-ip-addresses-by-country.php)

- economic interest: e.g. Digital agenda for Europe IPv6 takeup is a priority for EU's growth strategy
- cultural diversity?
- e.g. English is predominant language of the Internet (IPv6 as a enabler of multilingual web).

The governance of the IPv6 Internet (II.)

- will balance of power in internet governance change due to larger supply of IP addresses (multi-lateral management vs. multi-stakeholder management)?
- who will control expanded name/address space?
- further development of multi-stakeholder approach (NetMundial Initiative 2014)
- simplifying internet administration institutional arena (ICANN, ISOC, IETF, W3C, ITU, WSIS, WTO, WIPO)
- transparent and accountable internet governance

Deployment of the IPv6 Internet

- public awareness and demand (public interest);
- technologically oriented discussion is hard to understand by general public;
- communicating benefits of IPv6 for consumers, citizens and users;
- communicating risks of IPv6.

More discussion needed among general public about IPv6.

Contemporary IPv6 discussion

Contemporary technical discussion:

- IPv6 security
- IPv6/IPv4 compatibility
- technological know-how

Contemporary societal discussion:

- e-inclusion (lower cost for domain names, on-line services etc.)
- internet neutrality (all data on the Internet is treated equally)
- open government (e-governance)
- IPv6 uptake by users

Connecting both discussions – IP development and social demands / expectations.



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Projekt "Vsebinska mreža nevladnih organizacij za vključujočo informacijsko družbo" delno financira Evropska unija iz Evropskega socialnega sklada. Projekt se izvaja v okviru Operativnega programa razvoja človeških virov za obdobje 2007-2013, razvojne prioritete "Institucionalna in administrativna usposobljenost"; prednostne usmeritve "Spodbujanje razvoja nevladnih organizacij, civilnega in socialnega dialoga".