

IPv6 Security Myths, Filtering and Tips

Webinar

April 2025

RIPE NCC Learning & Development



This webinar is being recorded



IPv6 Security Myths

Filtering IPv6 Traffic

IPv6 Security Tips

Legend





Tell us about you!

Please answer the polls





IPv6 Security Myths

Section 1

IPv6 is Happening...



∨ RANK	IPV6%	COUNTRY / REGION
1	100%	Christmas Island
2	100%	Western Sahara
3	80%	Pitcairn
4	70.6%	India
5	67.2%	Montserrat
6	66.5%	Tokelau
7	62.1%	Malaysia
8	60.3%	Germany
9	59.8%	France
10	59.4%	Uruguay
11	54.8%	Saudi Arabia
12	54.2%	Belgium
13	52.5%	Nepal
14	52.5%	Japan
15	52.2%	United States
16	50.8%	Viet Nam
17	48.5%	Greece
18	47.5%	Thailand
19	47.4%	United Arab Emirates
20	46.5%	Brazil

IPv6 Adoption By Networks

*Networks data is limited to the top 200 networks ranked by total IPv6 hits to platform.

→ RANK	IPV6%	NETWORK	
1	71.5%	Comcast Cable	
2	73.5%	AT&T Communications Americas	
3	91.3%	Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited	
4	60.1%	Verizon Business	
5	92.5%	T-Mobile	
6	60.1%	Charter Communications Inc - TWC	
7	79.7%	Bharti Airtel Enterprise Ltd.	
8	74%	Deutsche Telekom Germany	
9	51.1%	Charter Communications Inc.	

IPv6 Adoption

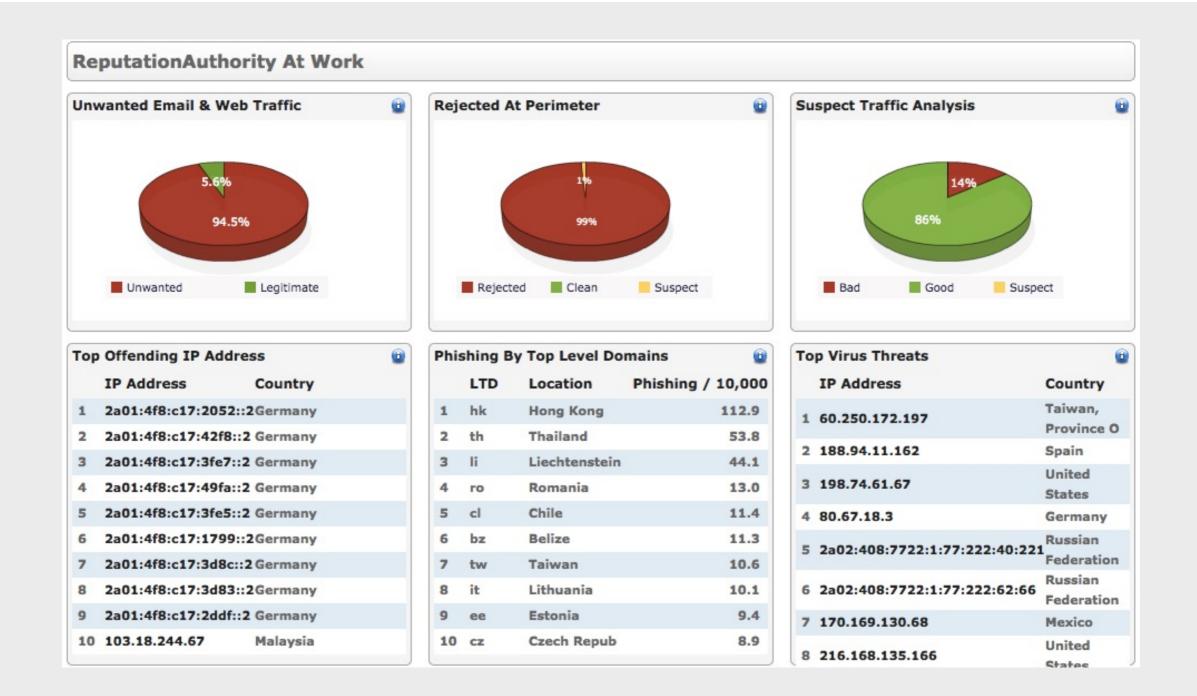
We are continuously measuring the availability of IPv6 connectivity among Google users. The graph shows the percentage of users that access Google over IPv6.



Source: Akamai, Google

... and So Are IPv6 Security Threats! 🥨







We need you to participate!

Please answer the questions on the chat





 1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8

- IPv6 is more secure than IPv4
- IPv6 has better security and it's **built in**





 1
 2
 3
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 7
 8

- IPv6 is **more secure** than IPv4
- IPv6 has better security and it's built in

Reason:

RFC 4294 - IPv6 Node Requirements: IPsec MUST



 1
 2
 3
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 7
 8

- IPv6 is more secure than IPv4
- IPv6 has better security and it's built in

Reason:

RFC 4294 - IPv6 Node Requirements: IPsec MUST

- RFC 6434 IPv6 Node Requirements: IPsec SHOULD
- IPsec available. Used for security in IPv6 protocols



1 **2** 3 4 5 6 7 8

- IPv6 has no NAT. Global addresses used
- I'm exposed to attacks from Internet





1 **2** 3 4 5 6 7 8

- IPv6 has no NAT. Global addresses used
- I'm exposed to attacks from Internet

Reason:

End-2-End paradigm. Global addresses. No NAT



1 **2** 3 4 5 6 7 8

- IPv6 has no NAT. Global addresses used
- I'm exposed to attacks from Internet

Reason:

End-2-End paradigm. Global addresses. No NAT

- Global addressing does not imply global reachability
- You are responsible for reachability (filtering)





1 2 **3** 4 5 6 7 8

IPv6 Networks are too big to scan





1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

IPv6 Networks are too big to scan

Reason:

- Common LAN/VLAN use /64 network prefix
- 18,446,744,073,709,551,616 hosts



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

IPv6 Networks are too big to scan

Reason:

- Common LAN/VLAN use /64 network prefix
- 18,446,744,073,709,551,616 hosts

- Brute force scanning is not possible [RFC5157]
- New scanning techniques





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IPv6 is too new to be attacked





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 IPv6 is too new to be attacked

Reason:

Lack of knowledge about IPv6 (it's happening!)



 1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8

IPv6 is too new to be attacked

Reason:

Lack of knowledge about IPv6 (it's happening!)

- There are tools, threats, attacks, security patches, etc.
- You have to be prepared for IPv6 attacks



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

- IPv6 is just IPv4 with 128 bits addresses
- There is nothing new





1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
• IPv6 is just IPv4 with 128 bits addresses
• There is nothing new

Reason:

Routing and switching work the same way



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
IPv6 is just IPv4 with 128 bits addresses
There is nothing new

Reason:

Routing and switching work the same way

- Whole new addressing architecture
- Many associated new protocols



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

IPv6 support is a yes/no question





1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

• IPv6 support is a yes/no question

Reason:

- Question: "Does it support IPv6?"
- Answer: "Yes, it supports IPv6"



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

IPv6 support is a yes/no question

Reason:

- Question: "Does it support IPv6?"
- Answer: "Yes, it supports IPv6"

- IPv6 support is not a yes/no question
- Features missing, immature implementations, interoperability issues





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 7
 8

 IPv6 is not a security problem in my IPv4-only network





1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

• IPv6 is not a security problem in my IPv4-only network

Reason:

Networks only designed and configured for IPv4





Reason:

Networks only designed and configured for IPv4

- IPv6 available in many hosts, servers, and devices
- Unwanted IPv6 traffic. Protect your network



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

- It is not possible to secure an IPv6 network
- Lack of resources and features





1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

- It is not possible to secure an IPv6 network
- Lack of resources and features

Reason:

- Considering IPv6 completely different than IPv4
- Think there are no BCPs, resources or features



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

- It is not possible to secure an IPv6 network
- Lack of resources and features

Reason:

- Considering IPv6 completely different than IPv4
- Think there are no BCPs, resources or features

- Use IP independent security policies
- There are BCPs, resources and features

Conclusions



A change of mindset is necessary

- IPv6 is not more or less secure than IPv4
- Knowledge of the protocol is the best security measure



Questions



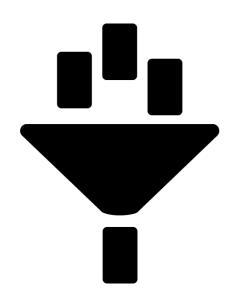


Filtering IPv6 Traffic

Section 2

Filtering in IPv6 is very Important!





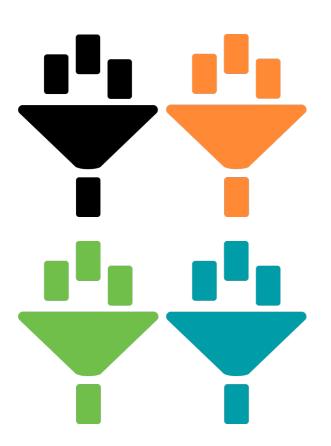
- Global Unicast Addresses
- A good addressing plan



Easier filtering!

New Filters to Take Into Account





- ICMPv6
- IPv6 Extension Headers
- Fragments Filtering
- Transition mechanisms (TMs) / Dual-Stack

Filtering ICMPv6



Type - Code	Description	Action		
Type 1 - all	Destination Unreachable	ALLOW		
Type 2	Packet Too Big	ALLOW		
Type 3 - Code 0	Time Exceeded	ALLOW		
Type 4 - Code 0, 1 & 2	Parameter Problem	ALLOW		
Type 128	Echo Reply	ALLOW for troubleshoot and services. Rate limit		
Type 129	Echo Request	ALLOW for troubleshoot and services. Rate limit		
Types 131,132,133, 143	MLD	ALLOW if Multicast or MLD goes through FW		
Type 133	Router Solicitation	ALLOW if NDP goes through FW		
Type 134	Router Advertisement	ALLOW if NDP goes through FW		
Type 135	Neighbour Solicitation	ALLOW if NDP goes through FW		
Type 136	Neighbour Advertisement	ALLOW if NDP goes through FW		
Type 137	Redirect	NOT ALLOW by default		
Type 138	Router Renumbering	NOT ALLOW		

More on RFC 4890 - https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4890



Filtering Extension Headers





- Firewalls should be able to:
 - 1. Recognise and filter some **EHs** (example: **RH0**)
 - 2. Follow the chain of headers
 - 3. Not allow **forbidden combinations** of headers



Filtering Fragments



Upper layer info not in 1st **fragment** Creates many tiny fragments to go through filtering / detection

Fragments inside fragments

Several fragment headers

Fragmentation inside a tunnel

External header hides fragmentation



Filtering Fragments



Upper layer info not in 1st Fragment

All header chain should be in the 1st fragment [RFC7112]

Fragments inside fragments

Should not happen in IPv6. Filter them

Fragmentation inside a tunnel

FW / IPS / IDS should support inspection of encapsulated traffic



Take the poll!

Is it recommended to configure filtering in an IPv6 host to drop all NS and NA messages?



Transition Mechanisms (TMs)



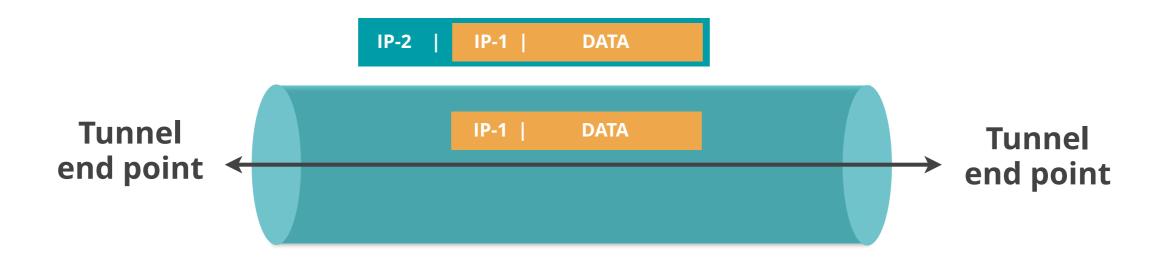


Temporary solution...

With security risks!

Tunnelling





Filtering TMs / Dual-stack



Technology	Filtering Rules			
Native IPv6	EtherType 0x86DD			
6in4	IP proto 41			
6in4 (GRE)	IP proto 47			
6in4 (6-UDP-4)	IP proto 17 + IPv6			
6to4	IP proto 41			
6RD	IP proto 41			
ISATAP	IP proto 41			
Teredo	UDP Dest Port 3544			
Tunnel Broker with TSP	(IP proto 41) (UDP dst port 3653 TCP dst port 3653)			
AYIYA	UDP dest port 5072 TCP dest port 5072			

More on RFC 7123 - https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc7123

IANA Protocol Numbers -

https://www.iana.org/assignments/protocol-numbers/protocol-numbers.xhtml



Take the poll!

Are you using **Transition Mechanisms** in your network?



IPv6 Packet Filtering



Much more important in IPv6



Common IPv4 Practices



New IPv6 Considerations

End to End needs filtering

ICMPv6 should be wisely filtered

Filtering adapted to IPv6: EHs, TMs



Questions







How can you protect your IPv6
 Host if the attack comes from the
 same link?





Demo 1

IPv6 Packet Filtering

Demo time!

We will demo the activity on the screen. Watch what we do.





Description: Configure a packet filter for NDP Redirect messages

Goals:

- Understand how easy it is to filter unwanted messages

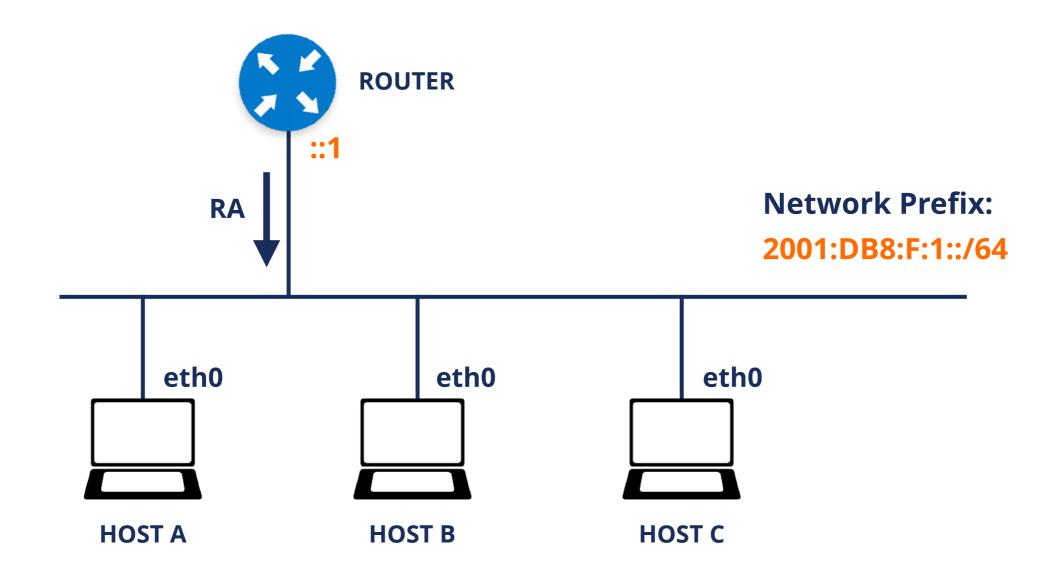
• **Time**: 15 minutes

Demo:

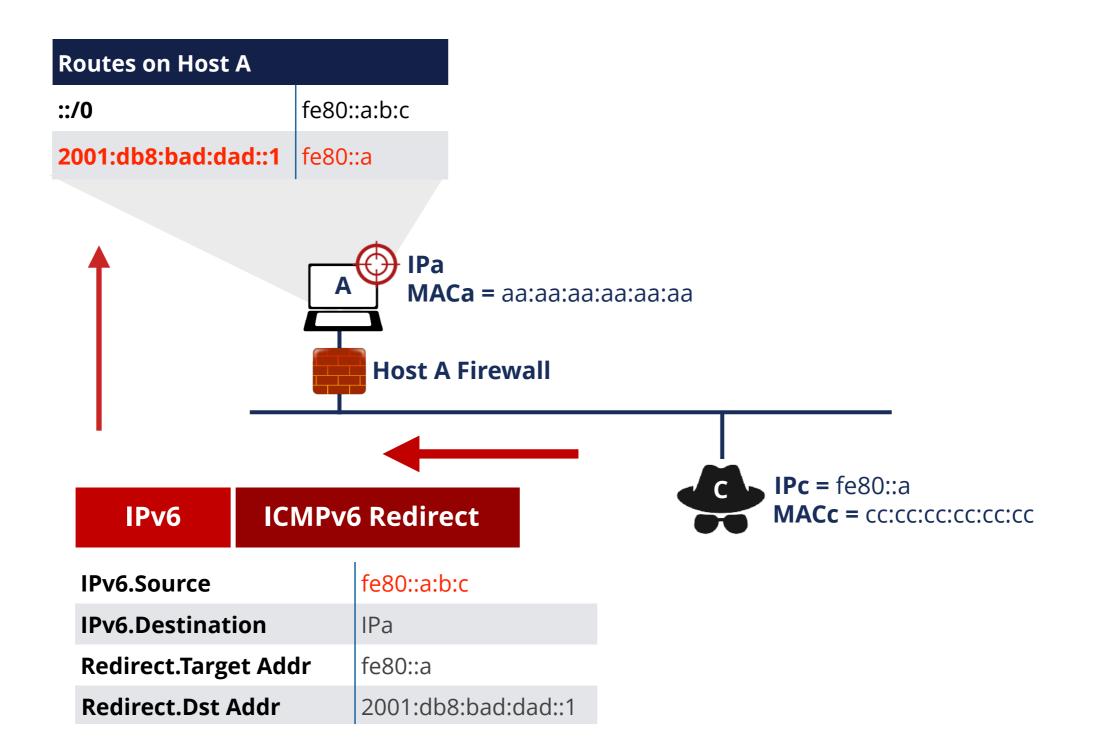
- Generate Redirect packets that change other host's routes (using a toolkit)
- Filter out Redirect messages in a host (using ip6tables)

Demo 1: Lab Network











```
[root@host-a ] ip -6 route show
unreachable ::/96 dev lo metric 1024 error -113
unreachable ::ffff:0.0.0.0/96 dev lo metric 1024 error -113
2001:db8:f:1::/64 dev eth0 proto kernel metric 256 expires 86392sec
unreachable 2002:a00::/24 dev lo metric 1024 error -113
unreachable 2002:7f00::/24 dev lo metric 1024 error -113
unreachable 2002:a9fe::/32 dev lo metric 1024 error -113
unreachable 2002:ac10::/28 dev lo metric 1024 error -113
unreachable 2002:c0a8::/32 dev lo metric 1024 error -113
unreachable 2002:e000::/19 dev lo metric 1024 error -113
unreachable 3ffe:ffff::/32 dev lo metric 1024 error -113
fe80::/64 dev eth0 proto kernel metric 256
default via fe80::5054:ff:fe50:472e dev eth0 proto ra metric 1024 expires
52sec hoplimit 64
```

```
[root@host-a ] ip -6 route get 2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1
2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1 via fe80::AB:a:F:12 dev eth0 proto ra src 2001:db8:F:29:5054:ff:feeb:5ada
metric 1024 hoplimit 255
```



The IPv6 Toolkit

```
# rd6 -i eth0 -s <c.1> -d <c.2> -t <c.3> -r <c.4> -n -v
```

THC-IPV6:

```
# redir6 eth0 <c.2> <c.4> <c.1> <c.3>
```

```
[root@host-c ]# redir6 eth0 2001:db8:f:1:5054:ff:feca:96d2
2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1 fe80::5054:ff:fe7e:ac53 fe80::cccc:cccc:cccc
Sent ICMPv6 redirect for 2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1
```



Before:

```
[root@host-a ] ip -6 route get 2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1
2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1 via fe80::5054:ff:fe7e:ac53 dev eth0 proto ra src
2001:db8:F:1:5054:ff:feeb:5ada metric 1024 hoplimit 255
```

• After:

```
[root@host-a ] ip -6 route get 2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1
2001:db8:bad:dad::1 via fe80::cccc:cccc:cccc dev eth0 src 2001:db8:bad:cafe:5054:ff:feca:96d2
metric 0
    cache hoplimit 64
```



```
[root@host-a ]# ip6tables -L -n
Chain INPUT (policy ACCEPT)
target prot opt source destination
[root@host-a ]# ip6tables -A INPUT -p icmpv6 --icmpv6-type 137 -j DROP
[root@host-a ]# ip6tables -L -n
Chain INPUT (policy ACCEPT)
                               destination
target prot opt source
                                             ipv6-icmptype
DROP
          icmpv6
                   ::/0
                                 ::/0
                                                           137
```



The IPv6 Toolkit

```
# rd6 -i eth0 -s <c.1> -d <c.2> -t <c.3> -r <c.4> -n -v
```

```
[root@host-c ]# rd6 -i eth0 -s fe80::5054:ff:fe7e:ac53 -d 2001:db8:f:1:5054:ff:feca:96d2 -t
fe80::cccc:cccc:cccc:cccc -r 2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1 -n -v
Ethernet Source Address: 52:54:00:d8:e8:27 (randomized)
Ethernet Destination Address: 52:54:00:ca:96:d2 (all-nodes multicast)
IPv6 Source Address: fe80::5054:ff:fe7e:ac53
IPv6 Destination Address: 2001:db8:f:1:5054:ff:feca:96d2
IPv6 Hop Limit: 255 (default)
Redirect Destination Address: 2001:db8:bad:dad::1
Redirect Target Address: fe80::cccc:cccc:ccccc
Initial attack packet(s) sent successfully.
```

THC-IPV6:

```
# redir6 eth0 <c.2> <c.4> <c.1> <c.3>
```

```
[root@host-c ]# redir6 eth0 2001:db8:f:1:5054:ff:feca:96d2
2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1 fe80::5054:ff:fe7e:ac53 fe80::cccc:cccc:cccc
Sent ICMPv6 redirect for 2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1
```



```
[root@host-a ] ip -6 route get 2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1
```

2001:db8:BAD:DAD::1 via fe80::5054:ff:fe7e:ac53 dev eth0 proto ra src

2001:db8:F:1:5054:ff:feeb:5ada metric 1024 hoplimit 255

Take the poll!

Think of the use of IPv6 packet filtering in the host as a protection tool.

Which of the following statements are **true**?





Questions





IPv6 Security Tips

Section 3

Take the poll!

Which IPv6 security tips can you already share with others in this webinar?





1	Best security tool is knowledge
2	IPv6 security is a moving target
3	IPv6 is happening: need to know about IPv6 security
4	Cybersecurity challenge: Scalability IPv6 is also responsible for Internet growth

Tips



- IPv6 quite similar to IPv4, many reusable practices
- IPv6 security compared with IPv4:

No changes with IPv6

Changes with IPv6

New IPv6 issues

Up to date information



Information category	Standardisation Bodies	Vulnerabilities Databases	Security Tools	Cybersecurity Organisations	Vendors	Public Forums
Sub-categories	IETF, 3GPP, Broadband Forum		Vulnerability Scanners	CSIRTs / CERTs Gov. / LEAs		Mailing Lists Groups of Interest Security Events
Information in this category	Security considerations	Vulnerability ID (CVE-ID, other)	Vulnerability ID (CVE-ID, other)	Vulnerability ID (CVE-ID, other)	Vulnerability ID (CVE-ID, other)	"0 Day" vulnerabilities News Trends Lessons learned
this category	Protocol updates Security recommendations	Severity (CVSS, other) Description Affected systems Solutions and workarounds	Severity (CVSS, other) Description Affected systems Solutions and workarounds Affected devices in your network	Severity (CVSS, other) Description Affected systems Solutions and workarounds "0 Day" vulnerabilities	Severity (CVSS, other) Description Affected systems Solutions and workarounds "0 Day" vulnerabilities	
Examples	RFCs, I-Ds	NVD, CVE	OpenVAS	CERT-EU ENISA EUROPOL/EC3	Cisco, Juniper, MS, Kaspersky, etc.	NOGs, IETF, IPv6 Hackers, Reddit, Troopers, etc.

Examples



Manual

CVE

cve.mitre.org/cve/search_cve_list.html

Search for: ICMPv6 windows

NVD

https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/search

Search for: CVE-2020-16899

Go to vendor's link

Automated

OpenVAS

Name ▼		Status	Reports	Last Report	Severity
Windows Workgroup Test	69	Stopped at 2 %	1		
Windows Domain Test	60	Stopped at 2 %	1		
DMZ Mail Scan	69	Container			
EulerOS Scan	60	Stopped at 22 %	74	Thu, Dec 26, 2019 6:00 AM UTC	10.0 (High)
TLS Map Scan	4	Done	1	Fri, Dec 27, 2019 1:38 PM UTC	0.0 (Log)
Metasploitable Test - GSM Master	69	Done	1	Fri, Jan 3, 2020 11:29 AM UTC	10.0 (High)
DMZ Mail Scan 2	60	New			
system discovery	69	Done	1	Fri, Dec 20, 2019 10:29 AM UTC	0.0 (Log)

Homework



Go to: cert.europa.eu

Select Publications

Select Security Advisories

Search for IPv6 related ones

Go to NVD: https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/search

Search for IPv6 + your vendor

Security Tools



Type	Can be used for	Examples
Packet Generators	Assessing IPv6 security	Scapy, nmap, Ostinato, TRex
	Testing implementations	
	Learning about protocols	
	Proof of concept of attacks/protocols	
Packet Sniffers/ Analyzers	Understanding attacks and security measures	tcpdump, Scapy, Wireshark, termshark
	Learning about protocols and implementations	
	Troubleshooting	
Specialised Toolkits	Assessing IPv6 security	THC-IPV6, The IPv6 Toolkit, Ettercap
	Learning about protocols and implementations	
	Proof of concept of attacks/protocols	
	Learn about new attacks	
Scanners	Finding devices and information	nmap, OpenVAS
	Proactively protect against vulnerabilities	
IDS/IPS	Understanding attacks and security measures	Snort, Suricata, Zeek
	Learning about protocols and implementations	
	Assessing IPv6 security	
	Learn about new attacks	

Devices Categories (RIPE-772)



Host

IPSec (if needed)

RHO [RFC5095]

Overlapping Frags [RFC5722]

Atomic Fragments [RFC6946]

NDP Fragmentation [RFC6980]

Header chain [RFC7112]

Stable IIDs [RFC8064][RFC7217] [RFC7136]

Temp. Address
Extensions
[RFC8981]

Disable if not used: LLMNR, mDNS, DNS-SD, transition mechanisms **Switch**

HOST+

IPv6 ACLs

FHS

RA-Guard [*RFC6105*]

DHCPv6 guard

IPv6 snooping

IPv6 source / prefix guard

IPv6 destination guard

MLD snooping [RFC4541]

DHCPv6-Shield [RFC7610] Router

HOST +

Ingress Filtering and RPF

DHCPv6 Relay [RFC8213]

OSPFv3

Auth. [RFC4552]

or / and [RFC7166]

IS-IS

[RFC5310]

or, less preferred, [RFC5304]

MBGP

TCP-AO [RFC5925]

MD5 Signature Option [RFC2385] Obsoleted

MBGP Bogon prefix filtering

Security Equipment

HOST+

Header chain [RFC7112]

Support EHs Inspection

ICMPv6 fine grained filtering

Encapsulated Traffic Inspection

IPv6 Traffic Filtering

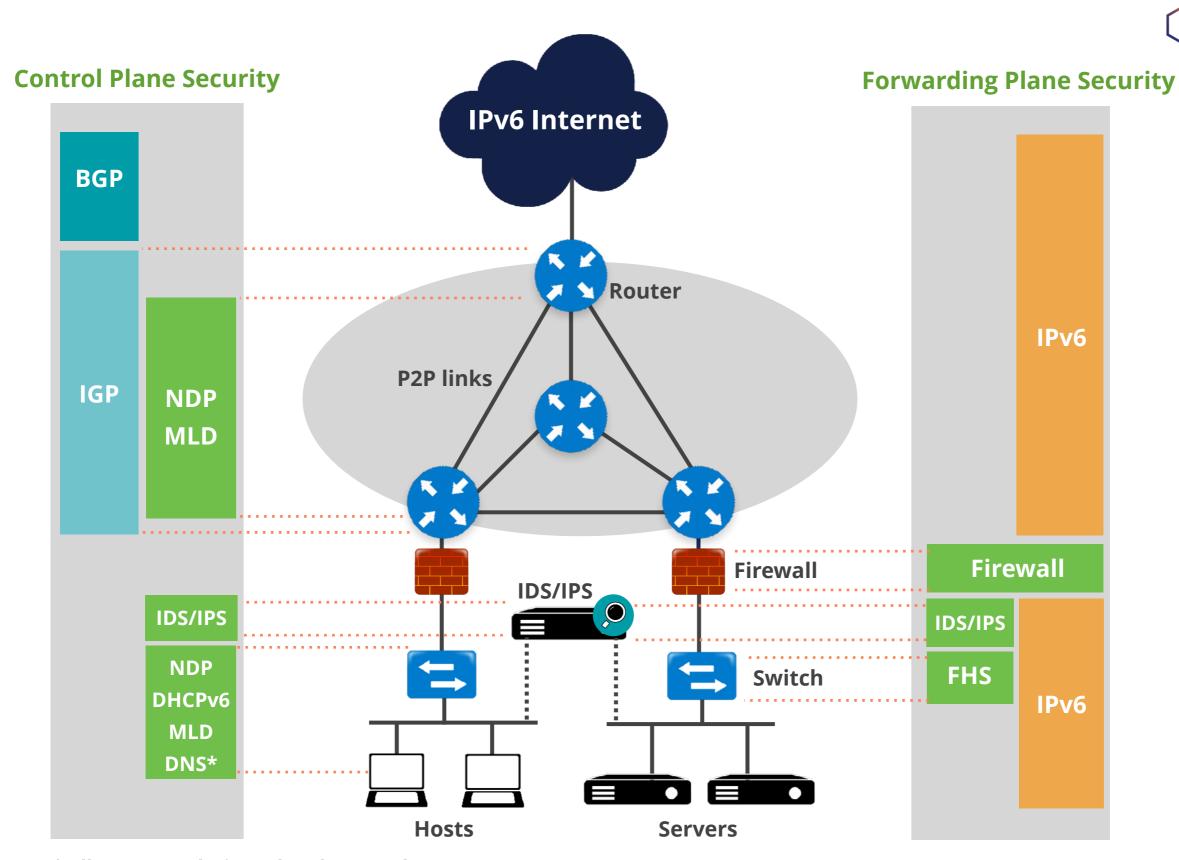
CPE

Router

Security Equipment

DHCPv6 Server Privacy Issues





^{*} All Name resolution related protocols



IPv6 security myths

Change your mindset

IPv6 no more/less secure than IPv4

Filtering IPv6 Traffic

Very important because of Global Addresses

Tips

Features per device

Features by context



Questions



Take the poll!

Think of everything you've learned in this webinar.

What things can you apply or use in your own network?





What's Next in IPv6





Webinars



Face-to-face



E-learning

Examinations

Attend another webinar live wherever you are.

- Introduction to IPv6 (2 hrs)
- IPv6 Addressing Plan (1 hr)
- Basic IPv6 Protocol Security (2 hrs)
- IPv6 Associated Protocols (2 hrs)
- IPv6 Security Myths, Filtering and Tips (2 hrs)

Meet us at a location near you for a training session delivered in person.

- IPv6 Fundamentals (8.5 hrs)
- Advanced IPv6 (17 hrs)
- IPv6 Security (8.5 hrs)

Learn at your own pace at our online Academy.

- IPv6 Fundamentals (15 hrs)
- IPv6 Security (24 hrs)

Learnt everything you needed? Get certified!

- IPv6 Fundamentals Analyst
- IPv6 Security Expert





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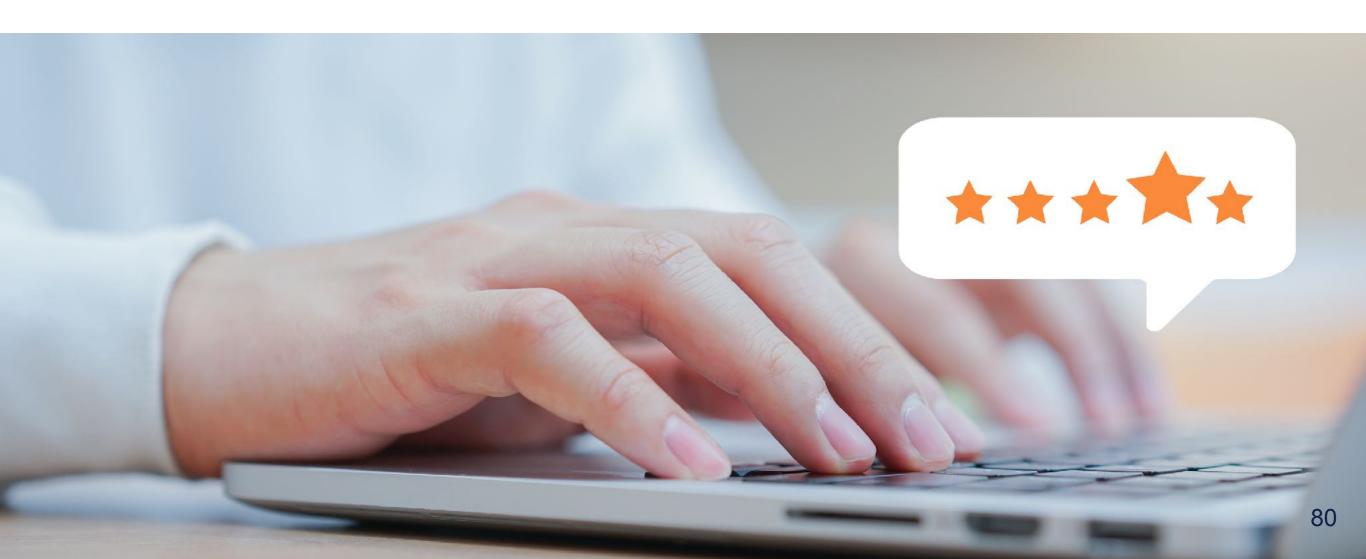
We want your feedback!



What did you think about this webinar?

Take our survey at:

https://www.ripe.net/feedback/ipv6s3/





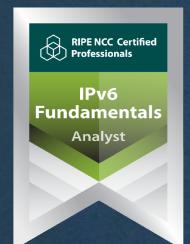
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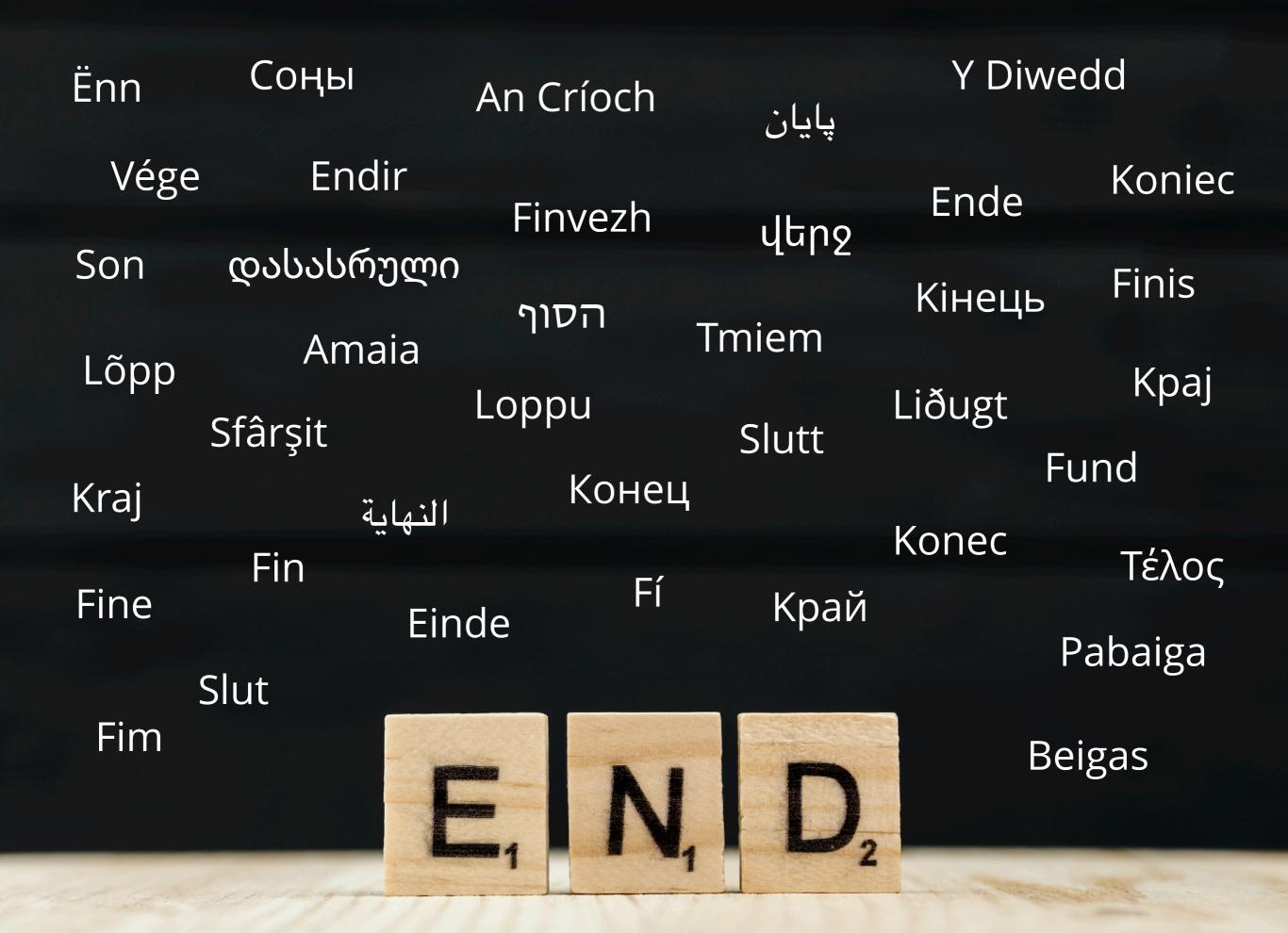






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