Networking **T**echnologies and **A**pplications

Rolland Vida
BME TMIT

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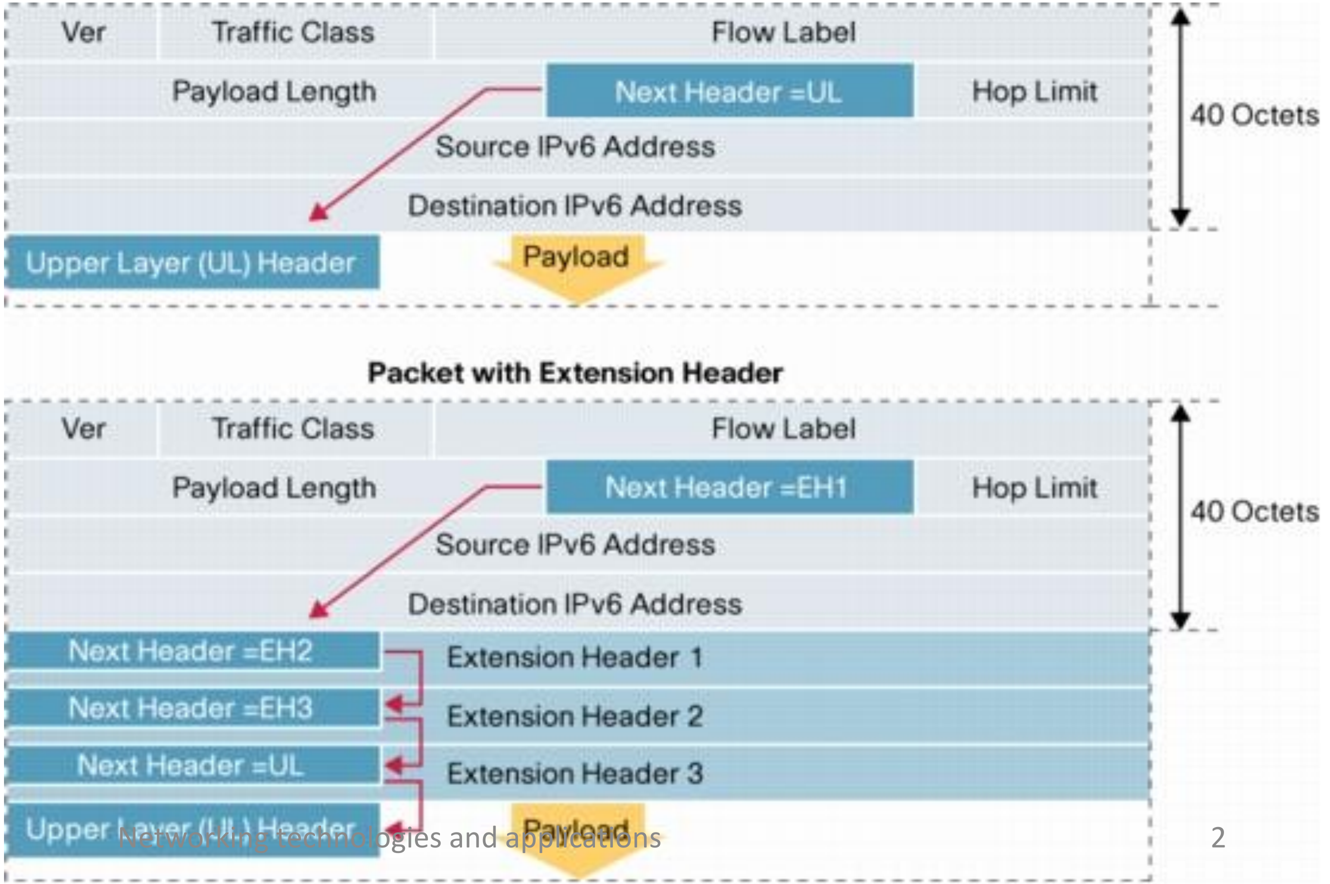
IPv6 chained extension headers



IPv6 extension headers

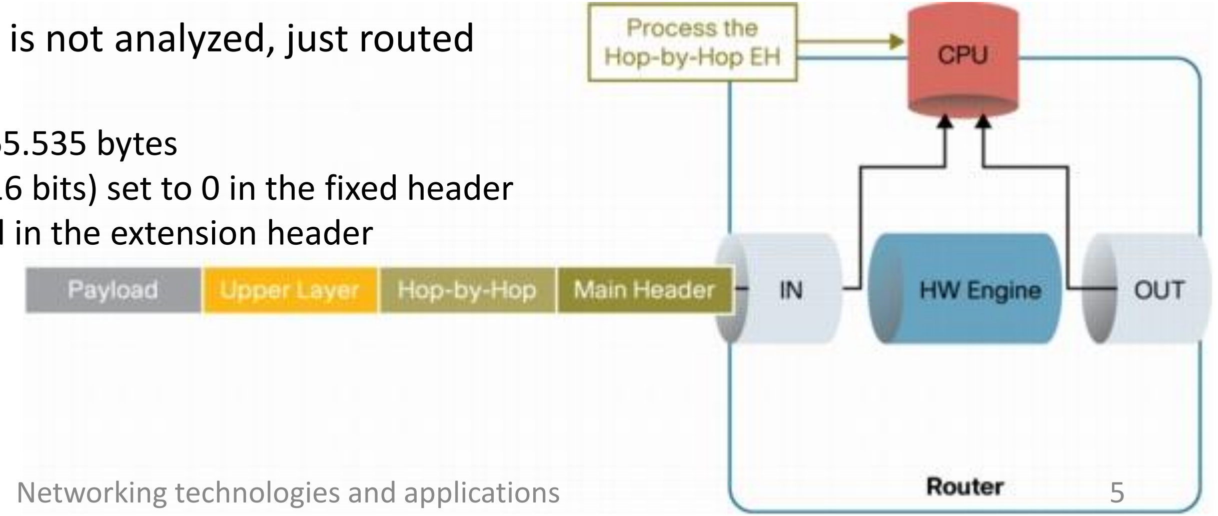
- Header order
  - Important: extension headers should respect the suggested order
    - Easier for routers to process the packet
    - In most cases the routers process only the hop-by-hop options and the routing header
  - Exception: destination option
    - Right before the higher layer header
    - If we want the intermediate routers to process the destination option header, we should put it right before the routing header, and they should be processed together.
    - A packet might contain a destination option headers in both locations

IPv6 extension headers

- The suggested header order:
  - IPv6 Header
  - Hop-by-hop Options Header (type = 0)
  - Destination Options Header (1)
  - Routing Header (type = 43)
  - Fragment Header (type = 44)
  - Authentication Header (type = 51)
  - Encapsulating Security Payload (ESP) (type = 50)
  - Destination Options Header (2) (type = 60)
  - Upper Layer Header (e.g. TCP or UDP)

IPv6 extension headers

- Hop-by-hop Options Header
  - Contains IP options for the intermediate routers
  - Each intermediate router should analyze and process the Hop-by-hop Header
  - Router Alert option alerts tranzit routers
    - If the packet packet contains information that should be processed by an intermediate router
    - Otherwise the packet is not analyzed, just routed
  - IPv6 jumbogram option
    - For packets larger than 65.535 bytes
    - The payload length (on 16 bits) set to 0 in the fixed header
    - The true length specified in the extension header



IPv6 extension headers

- Routing Header
  - In the normal case the source of the IP packet leaves the routing task to the network
  - In case of source routing, the source will specifiy a path with router addresses
    - The entire list in the Routing Header (e.g., A, B, C, D)
    - The destnation address is always the address of the next router specified in this field, except the last router
    - Each router modifies the destination address, before forwarding the packet

IPv6 extension headers

- Fragment Header
  - In IPv4 fragmentation and reassembly automatically, if explicitely not forbidden
    - **Don’t Fragment flag**
  - In IPv6 packets are not fragmented by default
    - If the packet is too large for the transmission medium, it is dropped and an ICMP (Internet Control Message Protocol) error message is sent
    - The source discovers the path MTU-t
      - Maximum Transmission Unit
    - Tries to send packets with a lower size than the MTU
    - If we need fragmentation, that can be done using the Fragmentation Extension Header
- Authentication Header
  - Guarantees that …
    - The recieved packet is authentic
    - It was not altered on its path
    - Comes from the specified source
- Destination Option Header
  - Contains options to be processed by the destination node

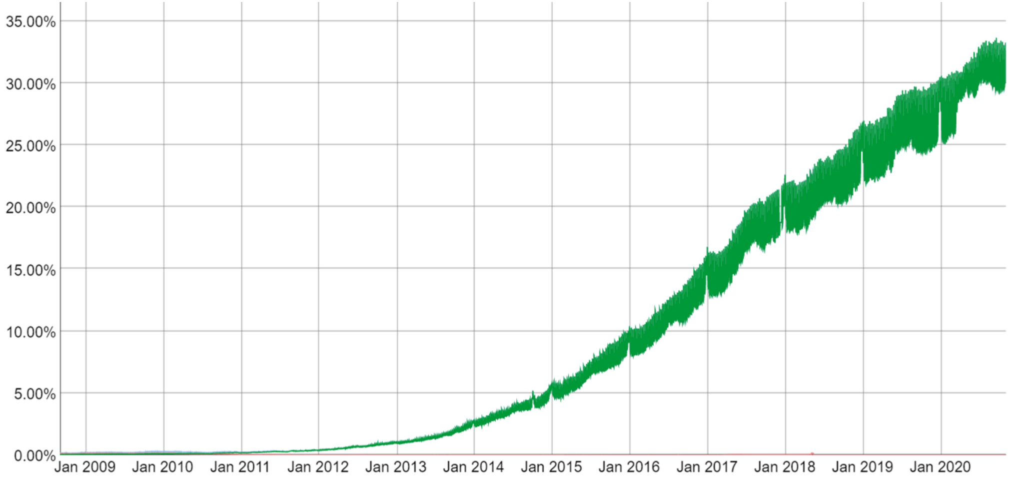
Transition to IPv6

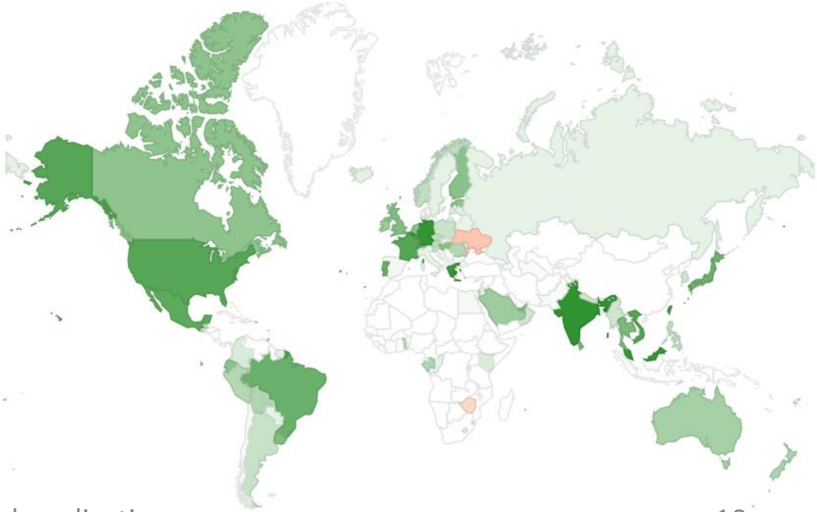
- Routing services built on IP
  - RIPv6(ng), OSPFv6 (v3), BGPv6
- Network and transport layer protocols built on IP
  - TCPv6, UDPv6, RSVPv6
- Applications
  - Each application that was using directly the IPv4 addresses is not independent from the lower layers, so IPv6 support should be implemented in it
- Gradual transition
  - No „D-day”
- Expectations regarding transition
  - No transition dependencies
    - The transition of a given node can be done independently from the others
    - The most important aspect is backward compatibility
  - It should be as easy as possible for the end user
  - The different transition solutions should be appliable independently of each other
    - At least at the level of the different domains

IETF paranthesis

- Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
  - Internet Drafts (valid for 6 months)
  - Request for Comments (RFCs)
    - No real comments requested
    - These are the actual standards
- Internet Research Task Force (IRTF)

IPv6 deployment as seen by Google



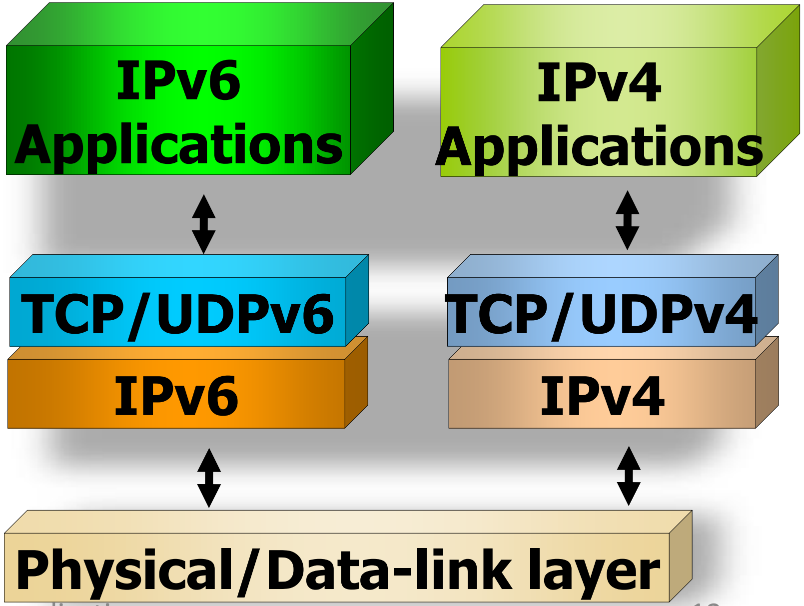


Transition solutions

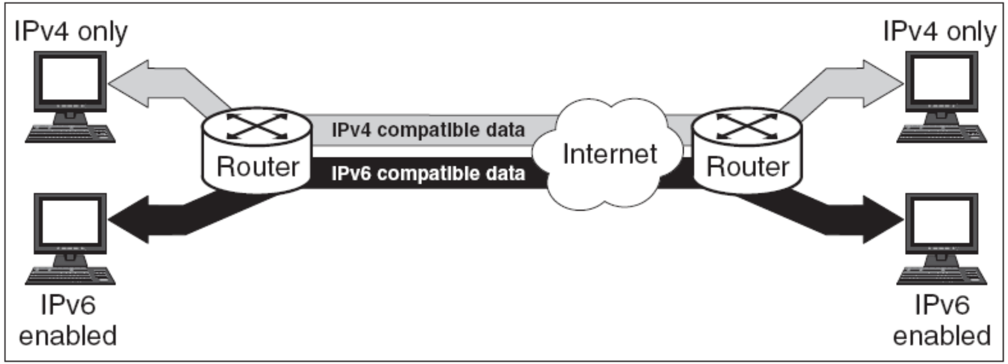
- Dual Stack
  - Both IPv4 and IPv6 stack on the same device
- Tunnels
  - Initially tunneling IPv6 packets in IPv4 domains
  - Later, tunneling IPv4 packets in IPv6 domains
- Protocol translation
  - Headers containing protocol information should be translated into different protocol headers, based on certain translation rules
  - IPv6 <-> IPv4

Dual Stack

- The first step towards deploying IPv6 is deploying some nodes that support IPv6 as well, next to IPv4
  - They have a double stack strategy
    - Use IPv6 to communicate with other IPv6 systems
    - Can switch back to IPv4 mode to talk to IPv4 systems

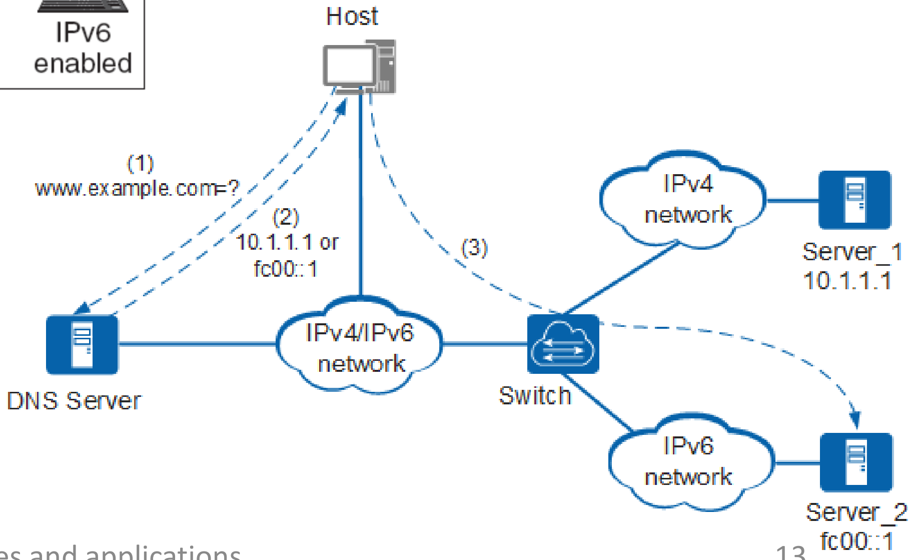


Dual stack



The host might send an IPv4 (class-A) or an IPv6 (class-AAAA) DNS query to the DNS server

- The server will answer with either one or both IP addresses
- By default trying first the IPv6 address



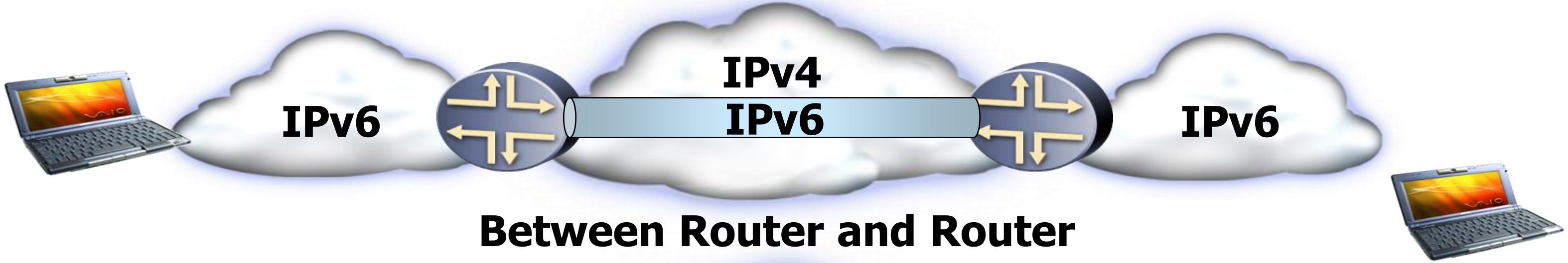
Dual stack

- Advantages
  - Easy to install, configure, maintain
  - The entire functionality of IPv6 can be exploited
  - Any two nodes can communicate exclusively with IPv4 or IPv6 packets
  - Transparent transition for the end users
- Drawbacks
  - Not scalable: each node should have an IPv6 and an IPv4 address, the limitation of the IPv4 address domain obstructs its spreading
  - The size of the routing tables is increased in the routers
  - Not flexible: no communication possibility between nodes speaking just IPv4 and just IPv6

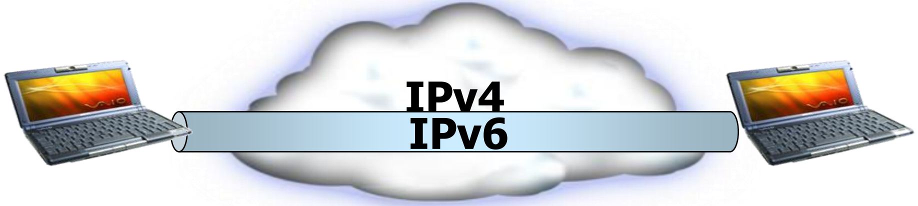
Tunneling

- IPv6 packet encapsulated inside an IPv4 packet
- The tunnel endpoints manage the encapsulation
- The process transparent to the intermediate nodes
- Configured tunnels
  - The tunnel endpoints are explicitely configured
  - They are dual stack nodes
- Automatic tunnels
  - The tunnel endpoint are automatically discovered by the network
  - Tunnel Brokers (RFC3053)
  - 6to4 (RFC3056)
  - ISATAP (Intra-Site Automatic Tunnel Addressing Protocol)
  - 6over4 (RFC2529)
  - Teredo: support tunnels through IPv4 NAT

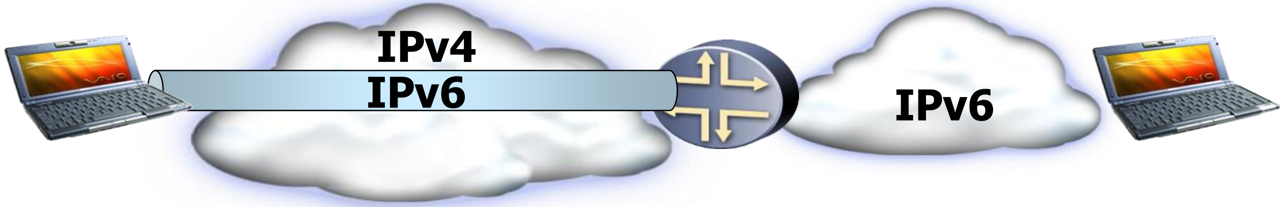
Tunneling



Between Router and Router



Between Host and Host



Between Host and Router / Router and Host

Translators

- Network layer translators
  - SITT (Stateless IP/ICMP Translator Algorithms) (RFC2765)
  - NAT-PT (Network Address Translator-Protocol Translator) (RFC2766)
  - BIS (Bump int the Stack) (RFC2767)
- Transport layer translator
  - TRT (Transport Relay Translator) (RFC3142)
- Application layer translators
  - BIA (Bump in the API) (RFC3338)
  - SOCKS64 (RFC3089)
  - ALG (Application Level Gateway)

Network layer translators

- The IPv4 messages are translated into IPv6 messages, and vice-versa (especially the headers)