IPv6 Protocol Architecture
# v4/v6 Header Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>IHL</th>
<th>Type of Service</th>
<th>Total Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification</td>
<td>Flags</td>
<td>Fragment offset</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to Live</td>
<td>Protocol</td>
<td>Header Checksum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source Address</td>
<td>Destination Address</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Options</td>
<td>Padding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Traffic Class</th>
<th>Flow Label</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payload Length</td>
<td>Next Header</td>
<td>Hop Limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Not kept in IPv6**
- **Renamed in IPv6**
- **Same name and function**
- **New in IPv6**
New Functional Improvement

• Address Space
  – Increase from 32-bit to 128-bit address space

• Management
  – Stateless autoconfiguration (SLAAC) means no more need to configure IP addresses for end systems, even via DHCP

• Performance
  – Simplified header means efficient packet processing
  – No header checksum re-calculation at every hop (when TTL is decremented) => left up to the lower and upper layers!

• No hop-by-hop fragmentation - PMTUD
IPv6 Protocol Header Format

- **Version (4-bit):**
  - 4-bit IP version number (6)

- **Traffic class (8-bit):**
  - Similar to DiffServ in IPv4; define different classes or priorities.

- **Flow label (20-bit):**
  - allows IPv6 packets to be identified based on flows (multilayer switching techniques and faster packet-switching performance)
IPv6 Protocol Header Format

- **Payload length (16-bit):**
  - Defines the length of the IPv6 payload (including extension headers); Total Length in IPv4 includes the header.

- **Next header (8-bit):**
  - Identifies the type of information following IPv6 header. Could be upper layer (TCP/UDP), or an extension header (similar to Protocol field in IPv4).

- **Hop limit (8-bit):**
  - Similar to TTL in IPv4
IPv6 Extension Header

- IPv6 allows an optional *Extension Header* in between the IPv6 header and upper layer header
  - Allows adding new features to IPv6 protocol without major re-engineering

Next Header values:
- 0 Hop-by-hop option
- 2 ICMP
- 4 SRH
- 6 TCP
- 17 UDP
- 43 Source routing (RFC5095)
- 44 Fragmentation
- 50 Encrypted security payload
- 51 Authentication
- 59 Null (No next header)
- 60 Destination option
IPv6 Extension Header (contd)

- An IPv6 packet may carry none or many extension headers
  - A next header value of 6 or 17 (TCP/UDP) indicates there is no extension header
    • the next header field points to TCP/UDP header, which is the payload

- Unless the next header value is 0 (*Hop-by-Hop option*), extension headers are processed only by the destination node, specified by the destination address.
Fragmentation Handling In IPv6

• In IPv6, fragmentation is only performed by the host/source nodes, and not the routers along the path (unlike IPv4)

• Each source device tracks the MTU size for each session

• When a IPv6 host has large amount of data to be sent, it will be send in a series of IPv6 packets (fragmented)
  -- IPv6 hosts use Path MTU Discovery (PMTUD) to determine the most optimum MTU size along the path
Path MTU Discovery

- With PMTUD, the source IPv6 device assumes the initial PMTU is the MTU of the first hop in the path
  - upper layers (Transport/Application) send packets based on the first hop MTU
  - If the device receives an "ICMPv6 packet too big (Type 2)" message, it informs the upper layer to reduce its packet size, based on the actual MTU size (contained in the message) of the node that dropped the packet
IPv6 Address Representation

- IPv6 address is 128 bits

- Number of IPv6 addresses: \(2^{128} \sim 3.4 \times 10^{38}\)

- IPv6 address is represented in hexadecimal
  - 4-bits (nibble) represent a hexadecimal digit
  - 4 nibbles (16-bits) make a hextet
  - represented as eight hextets (4 nibbles or 16 bits), each separated by a colon (:) 

2001:ABCD:1234::DC0:A910
IPv6 Address Representation (2)

2001:0DB8:0000:0000:0000:036E:1250:2B00

- Abbreviated form

2001:0DB8:0000:0000:0000:036E:1250:2B00

- Leading zeroes (0) in any hextet can be omitted

2001:DB8:0:0:0:36E:1250:2B00

- A double colon (::) can replace contiguous hextet segments of zeroes

2001:DB8::36E:1250:2B00

- (::) can only be used once!
IPv6 Address Representation (3)

• Double colons (::) representation
  – RFC5952 recommends that the rightmost set of :0: be replaced with :: for consistency

    2001:DB8:0:0:2F:0:0:5
    2001:DB8:0:0:2F::5 instead of 2001:DB8::2F:0:0:5

• Prefix Representation
  – Representation of prefix is similar to IPv4 CIDR

    → prefix/prefix-length
    2001:DB8:12::/40
IPv6 Addressing Model

- **Unicast Address**
  - Assigned to a *single interface*
  - Packet sent only to the interface with that address

- **Anycast Address**
  - *Same address* assigned to *more than one interface* (on different nodes)
  - Packet for an anycast address routed to the nearest interface (routing distance)

- **Multicast Address**
  - *group of interfaces* (on different nodes) join a multicast group
  - A *multicast address* identifies the *interface group*
  - Packet sent to the multicast address is replicated to all interfaces in the group
**Special Unicast Addresses**

- Unspecified Address (absence of an address)
  
  ::/128

- Loopback (test OSI/TCP-IP stack implementation)

  ::1/128
Global Unicast Addresses

• Globally unique and routable IPv6 address

• Currently, only global unicast address with first three bits of 001 have been assigned
  
  0010 0000 0000 0000 (2000::/3)
  0011 1111 1111 1111 (3FFF::/3)

• IANA gives a /12 each from 2000–3FFF::/3 to each RIR

  APNIC        2400::/12
  ARIN         2600::/12
  LACNIC       2800::/12
  RIPE NCC     2A00::/12
  AfriNIC      2C00::/12
Global Unicast Addresses

- RIRs assign /32 to ISPs
IPv6 Addressing Structure

- **Customer (Site) Prefix**: assigned to a customer site
  - Group of subnets
  - ISPs/RIRs ‘would’ assign /48 (/56 to customers)

- **Subnet ID**: identifies the subnets (links) within a site

- **Interface ID**: host portion of the IPv6 address
  - how many hosts within a subnet
IPv6 Addressing Structure

- Network Prefix: 32 bits
- ISP /32: 16 bits
- Customer Site /48: 16 bits
- End Site Subnet /64: 64 bits
- Device 128 Bit Address: 64 bits
Link-local Unicast Addresses

• Auto configured address (similar to APIPA)
  – Every IPv6 enabled device must have a link-local address
  – To communicate with other IPv6 devices on the same link
  – FE80::/10

• The link-local address is used by routers as the next-hop address when forwarding IPv6 packets

• All IPv6 hosts on a subnet/link, uses the router’s link-local as the default gateway
  – Routers use the link-local as the source in ND-RA messages
Well-known Multicast Addresses

- Multicast addresses can only be destinations and never a source
  \[ \text{FF00::/8} \]

- Pre-defined multicast addresses:
  - \[ \text{FF02::1} \] All nodes multicast
    - All IPv6 enabled devices join this multicast group
    - Packets sent to this address is received by all nodes
  - \[ \text{FF02::2} \] All routers multicast
    - The moment IPv6 is enabled on a router (\#ipv6 unicast-routing), the router becomes a member of this group
  - \[ \text{FF02::1:FFXX:XXXX/104} \] Solicited Node multicast
    - NS messages (~ARP request) are sent to this address
    - Uses the least significant 24-bits of its unicast/anycast address
    - Must compute and join for every unicast (link-local & global) on a interface
Well-known Multicast Addresses

• Pre-defined multicast addresses:
  
  – **FF05::1:2** All DHCP Servers/Relay Agents
    • Clients use this multicast address to discover any DHCPv6 servers/relays on the local link (link-scoped)
  
  – **FF05::1:3** All DHCP servers
    • Generally used by Relays to talk to servers
    • Site-scoped
Modified EUI-64 format

- Allows IPv6 device to compute a unique 64 bit Interface ID using the interface MAC address (48 bit)
  - MAC address is split into two 24 bit halves
    - OUI and NIC
  - Then **0xFFFE** is inserted between the two halves
    - 0xFFFE is reserved value, not assigned to any OEM
  - Invert 7th bit (U/L) of the OUI to get the EUI-64 address
    - addresses assigned to OEMs have this bit set to 0 to indicate global uniqueness
    - Set to 1 (invert 0) to indicate IEEE identifier is used, or 0 if otherwise.
LAN: 2001:db8:213:1::/64

Eth0

text: interface Ethernet0
ipv6 address 2001:db8:213:1::/64 eui-64

MAC address: 0060.3e47.1530

router# show ipv6 interface Ethernet0
Ethernet0 is up, line protocol is up
IPv6 is enabled, link-local address is FE80::260:3EFF:FE47:1530
Global unicast address(es):
Joined group address(es):
FF02::1:FF47:1530
FF02::1
FF02::2
MTU is 1500 bytes
ICMPv6 Neighbor Discovery

- **Router Solicitation (RS):**
  - sent by IPv6 host to "all routers" multicast to request RA

- **Router Advertisement (RA):**
  - sent by a IPv6 router to the "all nodes" multicast (200 secs)
  - IPv6 prefix/prefix length, and default gateway

- **Neighbor Solicitation (NS):**
  - sent by IPv6 host to the "solicited node" multicast to find the MAC address of a given IPv6 address (~ARP request).

- **Neighbor Advertisement (NA):**
  - sent in response to a NS and informs of its MAC address.

- **ICMPv6 Redirect:**
  - informs the source of a better next-hop
IPv6 Neighbor Discovery (ND)

• Host A would like to communicate with Host B
  – Global address 2406:6400::10
  – Link-local fe80::226:bbff:fe06:ff81
  – MAC address 00:26:bb:06:ff:81

• Host B IPv6 global address 2406:6400::20
  – Link-local UNKNOWN (if GW outside the link)
  – MAC address UNKNOWN

• How will Host A create L2 frame and send to Host B?
IPv6 Neighbor Discovery (ND)
IPv6 Address Resolution

**ICMPv6 NS Type 135**
- **SMAC**: 00:26:BB:06:FF:81
- **DMAC**: 33:33:FF:00:00:20
- **Source IPv6**: FE80::0226:BBFF:FE06:FF81
- **Destination IPv6**: FF02:0:0:0:0:1:FF00:0020


**ICMPv6 NA Type 136**
- **SMAC**: 00:26:BB:06:FF:82
- **DMAC**: 00:26:BB:06:FF:81
- **Source IPv6**: FE80::0226:BBFF:FE06:FF82
- **Destination IPv6**: FE80::0226:BBFF:FE06:FF81
IPv6 Address Resolution

IPv6 Packet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMAC: 00:26:BB:06:FF:81</th>
<th>DMAC: 00:26:BB:06:FF:82</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source IPv6: 2406:6400::0010</td>
<td>Dest IPv6: 2406:6400::0020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payload

Unicast

IPv6 Packet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMAC: 00:26:BB:06:FF:82</th>
<th>DMAC: 00:26:BB:06:FF:81</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Source IPv6: 2406:6400::0020</td>
<td>Dest IPv6: 2406:6400::0010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Payload
IPv6 Address Auto-configuration

• Stateless address auto-configuration (SLAAC)
  – No manual configuration required
  – Gets the IPv6 prefix and prefix length through RA (local router)
  – EUI-64 for interface ID (pseudo random)

• Stateful - DHCPv6
  – To track address assignments
Stateless Address Autoconfig (1)

When a host joins a link/subnet:

- It auto-generates a link-local using the **FE80::/10** prefix and EUI-64:
  - Ex: **FE80::346A:3BFF:FE76:CAF9**

- DAD is performed on the link-local:
  - NS message is sent to the “solicited-node” multicast (**FF02::1:FF76:CAF9**), with **::/128** as the source
  
  - If no NA message is received back, the generated address can be used
Stateless Address Autoconfig (2)

Once the node has a link-local address:

- sends a RS message to the "all-routers" multicast (FF02::2)
  - link-local as the source address

- The router responds with a RA message
  - IPv6 prefix and prefix length
  - link-local as the source
  - Auto flag by default (Managed and Other flags are not set!)

- The node generates the IPv6 address
  - uses the received prefix (2001:DB8::/64)
  - Interface ID (EUI-64)
  - 2001:DB8::346A:3BFF:FE76:CAF9
  - DAD not necessary (link-local validated for the same interface!)
DHCPv6 (1)

DHCPv6 is used:
- If there are no router(s) on the subnet/link, OR
- If the RA message specifies to get addressing information via DHCPv6

If the router’s RA message has the:
- O (other) flag set: *stateless DHCPv6*
  - auto-generate IPv6 address using IPv6 prefix & prefix length in the RA
  - obtain other information (DNS server, domain) via DHCPv6
- M (managed) flag set:
  - obtain all addressing information via DHCPv6
  - ‘O’ flag is redundant
1. Client sends **Solicit** message to `FF02::1:2` to find any available DHCPv6 servers

2. Server responds with an **Advertise** message
   - the tentative IPv6 address/prefix
   - Other parameters (DNS, domain, default gateway, lease time)
   - *could receive multiple Advertise messages*

3. Client selects the server, and sends a **Request** asking to formally request the indicated IPv6 address

4. Server responds with a **Reply** to confirm the assignment

5. Performs DAD before using!
IPv6 Interface ID – Privacy

• Overcome the ability to track (interface ID based on MAC address):
  – Temporary address (changes): outgoing connections
  – Secured address: incoming connection

  Temp > 2001:dc0:a000:4:84a3:49b6:1919:26fb

• Ease network management yet improve privacy:
  – Stable interface identifiers for each subnet

Zone IDs for Link-locals

Interface en0 - fe80::4e0:37e4:c5d1:c845%en0
Interface en5 - fe80::aede:48ff:fe00:1122%en5

• Zone IDs help uniquely distinguish which link/subnet an interface is connected to

• To ping a remote IPv6 node, use your interface zone ID (so that the response packet has a path)
Quiz - Zone ID

• Please write down the commands:
  – PC-A pings PC-B
  – PC-A telnet PC-C
Subnetting (Example)

• Provider A has been allocated

   2001:DB8::/32

   – will delegate /48 blocks to its customers

Q. Find the blocks provided to the first 4 customers
Subnetting (Example)

Original block: 2001:0DB8::/32

Rewrite as a /48 block: 2001:0DB8:0000::/48

This is your network prefix!

How many /48 blocks are there in a /32?

$$2^{16} = 65K$$

Find only the first 4 /48 blocks…
### Subnetting (Example)

Start by manipulating the LSB of your network prefix – write in bits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>In bits</th>
<th></th>
<th>Prefix</th>
<th>In bits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001:0DB8:0000::/48</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Bits" /></td>
<td></td>
<td>2001:0DB8:0000::/48</td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="Bits" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001:0DB8:0001::/48</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Bits" /></td>
<td></td>
<td>2001:0DB8:0001::/48</td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Bits" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001:0DB8:0002::/48</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Bits" /></td>
<td></td>
<td>2001:0DB8:0002::/48</td>
<td><img src="image6" alt="Bits" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001:0DB8:0003::/48</td>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Bits" /></td>
<td></td>
<td>2001:0DB8:0003::/48</td>
<td><img src="image8" alt="Bits" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Then write back into hex digits
Exercise 1.1: IPv6 subnetting

Identify the first four /36 address blocks out of 2406:6400::/32

1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3. _______________________
4. _______________________

Exercise 1.2: IPv6 subnetting

Identify the first four /35 address blocks out of 2406:6400::/32

1. _______________________
2. _______________________
3. _______________________
4. _______________________
Questions