Global IPv6 Service Launch Event

Date: 15-16 January 2004
Location: Brussels, Belgium
Info page: www.global-ipv6.net

Overview

The research and scientific communities around the world are aware of the impact of advanced networks and services. The new Internet Protocol, IPv6, provides the necessary basis for realising a global information society, the underlying e-infrastructure and lays the framework for many new and imaginative network services for the benefit of society. High-speed networks, like GÉANT, offer a whole new way of collaborative research to be carried out within a region and around the globe.

The Global IPv6 Service Launch Event builds on regional activities, conferences and meetings held by the various networking organisations in their region. The Global IPv6 Service Launch Event also builds on the recent achievements of the research and development community in testing and validating the large-scale rollout of IPv6.

IPv6 is the re-design of the Internet Protocol version 4, IPv4, which has been in use for the past 20 years or so. IPv4 is the protocol on which the Internet, as we know it, has been built. While it has proved to be highly successful and resilient, IPv4 was designed when most of today's technologies were not conceived. IPv6 rectifies many of the problems that IPv4 cannot easily address and opens up the way to many exciting and new services and enables a new era of global co-operation.

Through various bilateral discussions in the past a global pattern for research networking on IPv6 could be identified. Drawing from that, it was felt that it is time to take a common global approach to native IPv6 networking for the research community on a worldwide scale. The Global IPv6 Service Launch Event will address and highlight these issues. Subsequent actions will seek to foster further collaboration on related research networking subjects of worldwide interest.

An important goal of the European Union in general, and more particularly of the European Research Area, is to create an environment where researchers living and working in different countries have access to state-of-the-art networking services in order to pursue their research. Together with GÉANT, the national research and education networks and the wider European research networking community provide an e-infrastructure that is the foundation of the European Research Area.

Several large-scale research undertakings in Europe with partners from all over the world started a concerted action at the beginning of 2002 to tackle the issues related to the broad rollout of IPv6. These initiatives are producing impressive results and their impact is recognised widely. In this event these advanced test-bed activities highlight their findings and demonstrate the benefits of IPv6-based networks, services and applications.

Objectives
The Global IPv6 Service Launch Event has the following objectives:

- Highlight the importance and impact of IPv6
- Publicise the advanced capabilities of the large IPv6 test-beds, GÉANT and the national research and education networks with regard to their IPv6 deployment
- Promote international co-ordination and collaboration
- Emphasise the international dimension of research expanding from regional into global co-operation
- Further develop a global perspective on research networking

- Inform leading-edge and influential users about the achievements of the European large IPv6 test-beds and GÉANT and how they can benefit from them
- Promote the new possibilities available with IPv6

The Global IPv6 Service Launch Event will have two distinctive parts addressing the above objectives.

- The first part addresses the transition from regional to global IPv6 networking. This event is supposed to provide a forum to exchange views and ideas on how further to develop global research networking. As a concrete step for the realisation of this common objective a global IPv6 network will be inaugurated that will provide the start of an operational IPv6 connectivity service. The launch will be underlined by high-level speakers from the European Commission and the European Parliament.

- The second part introduces the achievements of the various R&D groups worldwide on IPv6. Their findings and experiences on rolling-out operational IPv6 applications and services will be complemented by achievements from industry. These key persons from industry and research from around the world are reporting on the substantial benefits gained by embracing an advanced technology such as IPv6 as an integrated tool in their activities.

The Global IPv6 Service Launch will allow for meetings and group discussions to be organised around that event. This will foster the preparation and follow up on further joint global activities.

Who should attend
The Global IPv6 Service Launch Event is an ideal forum for policy-makers, leading experts and managers from Research, Industry and Business active in the area of IPv6 and research networking from around the world.
Attendance is by invitation only.

Proceedings

Prior to the meeting, each speaker shall submit a position paper expressing his/her views. This paper should not exceed one A4 page.

A report will be produced on each of the sessions of the Global IPv6 Service Launch Event.

The reports on the sessions of the Global IPv6 Service Launch Event together with the position papers will provide the input for the final summit report.

Logistics, Further Information

The Global IPv6 Service Launch Event is co-organised by the Information Society Directorate General of the European Commission and the European projects 6NET and Euro6IX. GÉANT, the IPv6 Cluster, Eurov6 and the European IPv6 Task Force are giving their support to this event as well.

The attendance of the event is free of any fee but prior registration is required. Please contact Marie-Gabrielle.Dejardin@cec.eu.int for your registration.

For more information on the event please contact: Pascal.Drabik@cec.eu.int
Info page: **www.global-ipv6.net**