



World IPv6 Day Frequently Asked Questions

What is World IPv6 Day?

World IPv6 day, scheduled for 8 June 2011, is a global-scale test flight of IPv6 sponsored by the Internet Society. On World IPv6 Day, major web companies and other industry players will come together to enable IPv6 on their main websites for 24 hours. The goal is to motivate organizations across the industry -- Internet service providers, hardware makers, operating system vendors and web companies -- to prepare their services for IPv6 to ensure a successful transition as IPv4 address space runs out.

Why is World IPv6 Day necessary?

The address space used by the current version of the Internet protocol, IPv4, is expected to run out in 2011. Without action, we risk increased costs and limited functionality online for Internet users everywhere. The only long-term solution to this problem is adoption of IPv6, which provides over 4 billion times more space. IPv6 is used extensively in many large networks, but it has never been enabled at a global scale. World IPv6 Day will help industry players work together to support the new protocol on an accelerated timeline. With major web companies committing to enable IPv6 on their main websites, there are strong incentives for other industry players to ensure their systems are prepared for the transition.

Who is participating?

As of today, more than 1000 organizations have expressed interest and 1000s of websites around the world have committed to participating in World IPv6 Day. In addition to websites with global reach, such as Google, Yahoo!, and Facebook, many participants are among the leading sites in their region. Commitments to participate in World IPv6 Day already have exceeded expectations. We continue to receive expressions of interest. The event has sparked other IPv6-related activities, so it has definitely catalyzed significant interest and action.

How, specifically, does World IPv6 Day help motivate change and test the technology?

World IPv6 Day will act as a focal point to bring existing efforts together. For the first time, players from all parts of the industry will be able to work towards the common goal of enabling IPv6 at a large scale with minimal disruption. By acting together, ISPs, web site operators, OS manufacturers, and equipment vendors will be able to address problems, such as IPv6 brokenness in home networks and incomplete IPv6 interconnection. Also, on the day itself, any global scalability problems can be found in a controlled fashion and resolved cooperatively.

What, specifically, still needs to happen for the industry to effectively transition to IPv6?

All major Internet industry players will need to take action to ensure a successful transition. For example:

- Internet service providers need to make IPv6 connectivity available to their users
- Web companies need to offer their services over IPv6
- Operating system makers may need to implement specific software updates
- Backbone providers may need to establish IPv6 peering with each other
- Hardware and home gateway manufacturers may need to update firmware

How will World IPv6 Day impact Internet users?

One of the goals of World IPv6 Day is to expose potential issues under controlled conditions and address them as soon as possible. The vast majority of users should be able to access services as usual, but in rare cases, misconfigured or misbehaving network equipment, particularly in home networks, may impair access to participating websites during the trial. Current estimates are that 0.05% of users may experience such problems, but participating organizations will be working together with operating system manufacturers, home router vendors and ISPs to minimize the number of users affected. Participants will also be working together to provide tools to detect problems and offer suggested fixes in advance of the trial.

What can Internet users do to get ready for World IPv6 Day?

Most Internet users will not be affected. Web services, Internet service providers, and OS manufacturers will be updating their systems to ensure Internet users enjoy uninterrupted service. In rare cases, users may still experience connectivity issues when visiting participating websites. Users can visit an IPv6 test site such as test-ipv6.com to check if their connectivity will be impacted. If the test indicates a problem, they can disable IPv6 or ask their ISPs to help fix the problem.

What if I have a problem connecting to a participating web service. What can I do?

It's very unlikely you will be impacted by IPv6 Day. Current estimates are that 0.05% of users may experience connectivity issues, and participating organizations will be working together with operating system manufacturers, home router vendors and ISPs to minimize the number of users affected. You can test your Internet connection ahead of IPv6 Day at test-ipv6.com. In the unlikely event you have problems on IPv6 Day, the best thing to do is to contact your ISP for support. In the coming months, participating organizations will be working together to publish help guides with more specific instructions for diagnosing and addressing potential issues.

What exactly needs to get fixed? Operating systems? Web browsers? Home routers? ISPs?

In some cases, it's as simple as staying current with the latest updates to your operating system. In other cases, you may need to toggle a control panel setting or update the firmware (software) on your home router.

Which organizations can join World IPv6 Day?

We welcome additional participants. Please visit <http://www.isoc.org/worldipv6day>.

What will happen after World IPv6 Day on 8 June?

Once World IPv6 Day on 8 June 2011 is complete, the participants will evaluate what they have collectively learned, and what the best next steps will be. We will know more in the coming weeks and months, including whether another World IPv6 Day is needed to advance the deployment of IPv6. Ultimately, success will be measured by the continued deployment of IPv6. It is important to note that many organizations have already made this commitment. World IPv6 Day is encouraging the continued deployment of IPv6, so it is an important milestone along the path.

Where can I or others find more information regarding World IPv6 Day?

For the latest information, as well as contact information, please see: <http://www.worldipv6day.org>. Media inquiries ought to be directed to: media@isoc.org