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**Internet Protocol version 10 (IPv10)
Specification
draft-omar-ipv10-12**

Status of this Memo

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Abstract

This document specifies version 10 of the Internet Protocol (IPv10), a solution that allows IPv4-only hosts to communicate with IPv6-only hosts and vice versa.

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1. Introduction

IP version 10 (IPv10) is a new version of the Internet Protocol, designed to allow IP version 6 [[RFC-2460](#)] to communicate to IP version 4 (IPv4) [[RFC-791](#)] and vice versa.

- Internet is the global wide network used for communication between hosts connected to it.
- These connected hosts (PCs, servers, routers, mobile devices, etc.) must have a global unique addresses to be able to communicate through the Internet and these unique addresses are defined in the Internet Protocol (IP).
- The first version of the Internet Protocol is IPv4.
- When IPv4 was developed in 1975, it was not expected that the number of connected hosts to the Internet reach a very huge number of hosts more than the IPv4 address space, also it was aimed to be used for experimental purposes in the beginning.
- IPv4 is (32-bits) address allowing approximately 4.3 billion unique IP addresses.
- A few years ago, with the massive increase of connected hosts to the Internet, IPv4 addresses started to run out.
- Three short-term solutions (CIDR, Private addressing, and NAT) were introduced in the mid-1990s but even with using these solutions, the IPv4 address space ran out in February, 2011 as announced by IANA, The announcement of depletion of the IPv4 address space by the RIRs is as follows:
 - * April, 2011: APNIC announcement.
 - * September, 2012: RIPE NCC announcement.
 - * June, 2014: LACNIC announcement.
 - * September, 2015: ARIN announcement.
- A long term solution (IPv6) was introduced to increase the address space used by the Internet Protocol and this was defined in the Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6).

- IPv6 was developed in 1995 by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).
- IPv6 is (128-bits) address and can support a huge number of unique IP addresses that is approximately equals to 2^{128} unique addresses.
- So, the need for IPv6 became a vital issue to be able to support the massive increase of connected hosts to the Internet after the IPv4 address space exhaustion.

- The migration from IPv4 to IPv6 became a necessary thing, but unfortunately, it would take decades for this full migration to be accomplished.

- 23 years have passed since IPv6 was developed, but no full migration happened till now and this would cause the Internet to be divided into two parts, as IPv4 still dominating on the Internet traffic (75% as measured by Google in November, 2018) and new Internet hosts will be assigned IPv6-only addresses and be able to communicate with 25% only of the Internet services and apps.

- So, the need for solutions for the IPv4 and IPv6 coexistence became an important issue in the migration process as we cannot wake up in the morning and find all IPv4 hosts are migrated to be IPv6 hosts, especially, as most enterprises have not do this migration for creating a full IPv6 implementation.

- Also, the request for using IPv6 addresses in addition to the existing IPv4 addresses (IPv4/IPv6 Dual Stacks) in all enterprise networks have not achieve a large implementation that can make IPv6 the most dominated IP in the Internet as many people believe that they will not have benefits from just having a larger IP address bits and IPv4 satisfies their needs, also, not all enterprises devices support IPv6 and also many people are afraid of the service outage that can be caused due to this migration.

- The recent solutions for IPv4 and IPv6 coexistence are:
 - Native dual stack (IPv4 and IPv6)
 - Tunneling
 - NAT64/DNS64
 - Dual-stack Lite
 - 464xlat
 - MAP

(other technologies also exist, like lw6over4; they may have more specific use cases)

- IPv4/IPv6 Dual Stack, allows both IPv4 and IPv6 to coexist by using both IPv4 and IPv6 addresses for all hosts at the same time, but this solution does not allow IPv4 hosts to communicate to IPv6 hosts and vice versa. Also, after the depletion of the IPv4 address space, new Internet hosts will not be able to use IPv4/IPv6 Dual Stacks.
- Tunneling, allows IPv6 hosts to communicate to each other through an IPv4 network, but still does not allow IPv4 hosts to communicate to IPv6 hosts and vice versa.
- NAT-PT, allows IPv6 hosts to communicate to IPv4 hosts with only using hostnames and getting DNS involved in the communication process but this solution was inefficient because it does not allow communication using direct IP addresses, also the need for so much protocol translations of the source and destination IP addresses made the solution complex and not applicable that's why it was moved to the Historic status in the [RFC 2766](#). Also, NAT64 requires so much protocol translations and statically configured bindings, and also getting a DNS64 involved in the communication process.

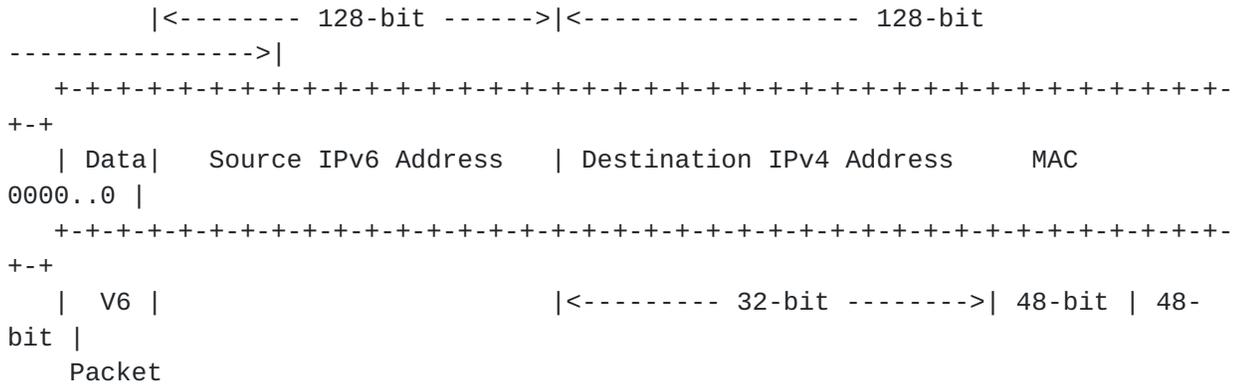
2. Internet Protocol version 10 (IPv10).

- IPv10 is the solution presented in this Internet draft.
- It solves the issue of allowing IPv6 only hosts to communicate to IPv4 only hosts and vice versa in a simple and very efficient way, especially when the communication is done using both direct IP addresses and when using hostnames between IPv10 hosts, as there is no need for protocol translations or getting the DNS involved in the communication process more than its normal address resolution function.
- IPv10 allows hosts from two IP versions (IPv4 and IPv6) to be able to communicate, and this can be accomplished by having an IPv10 header containing a mixture of IPv4 and IPv6 addresses added to the original IP packet header regardless the IP packet version.
- The new IPv10 header contains a source and destination IP addresses from two different versions.
- From here the name of IPv10 arises, as the new added header can contain (IPv6 + IPv4 / IPv4 + IPv6) addresses.

3. The Four Types of Communication.

3.1) IPv10: IPv6 Host to IPv4 Host.

- IPv10 New Added Header (Tunnel):



MAC ==> The sending host MAC address.

- The destination address is 128 bit, when the 1st 48-bits are zeros, the router will know that the last 32-bit is an IPv4 address and it can start forwarding the packet based on that address.

- The second 48-bit represents the sending host MAC address and this can be used for host identification.

- The last 32-bit represents the destination IPv4 address.

- Sending IPv10 host TCP/IP Configuration:

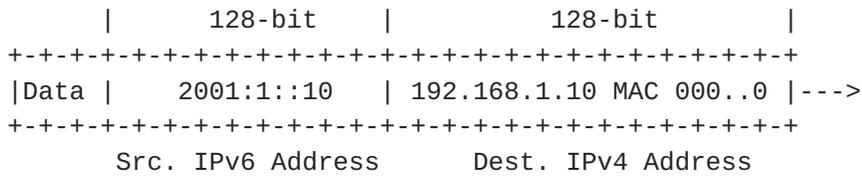
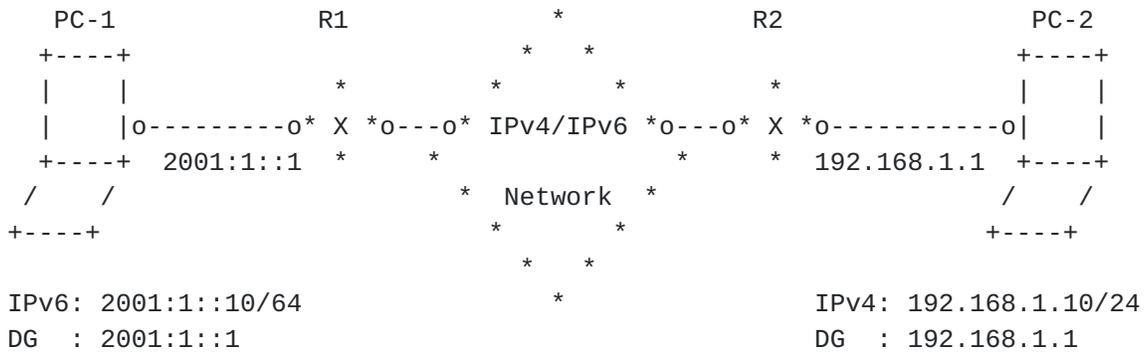
- IP Address: IPv6 Address
- Prefix Length: /length
- Default Gateway: IPv6 Address (Optional)
- DNS Addresses: IPV6/IPv4 Address

- Example of IPv10 Operation:

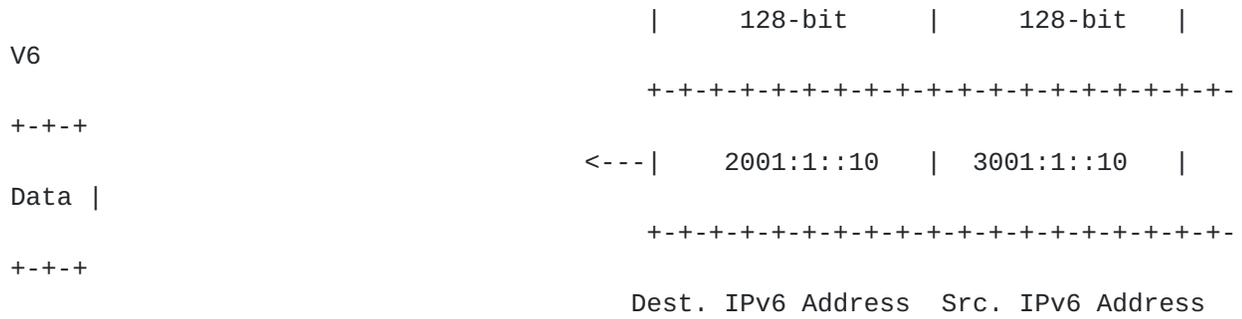
R1 & R2 have both IPv4/IPv6 routing enabled

IPv10 Host

IPv10 Host



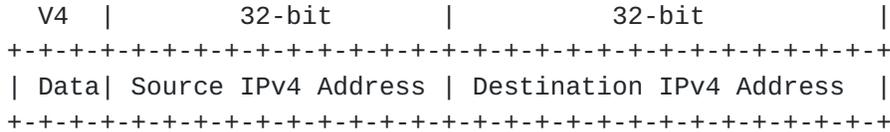
IPv10: IPv6 host to IPv4 host



IPv10: IPv6 host to IPv6 host

3.4) IPv10: IPv4 Host to IPv4 Host.

- IPv4 Packet:



- Sending IPv10 host TCP/IP Configuration:

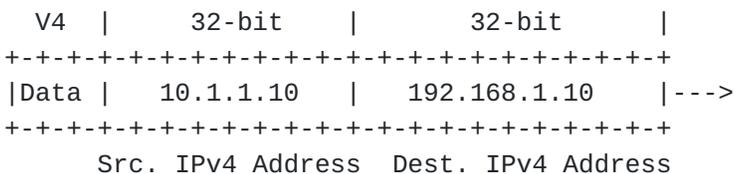
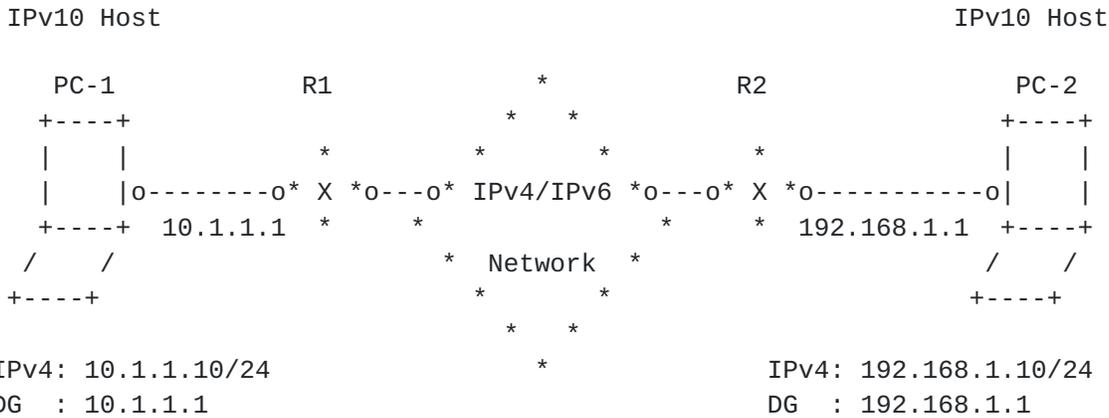
```

IP Address:          IPv4 Address
Subnet Mask:         /Mask
Default Gateway:    IPv4 Address
DNS Addresses:      IPv6/IPv4 Address

```

- Example of IPv10 Operation:

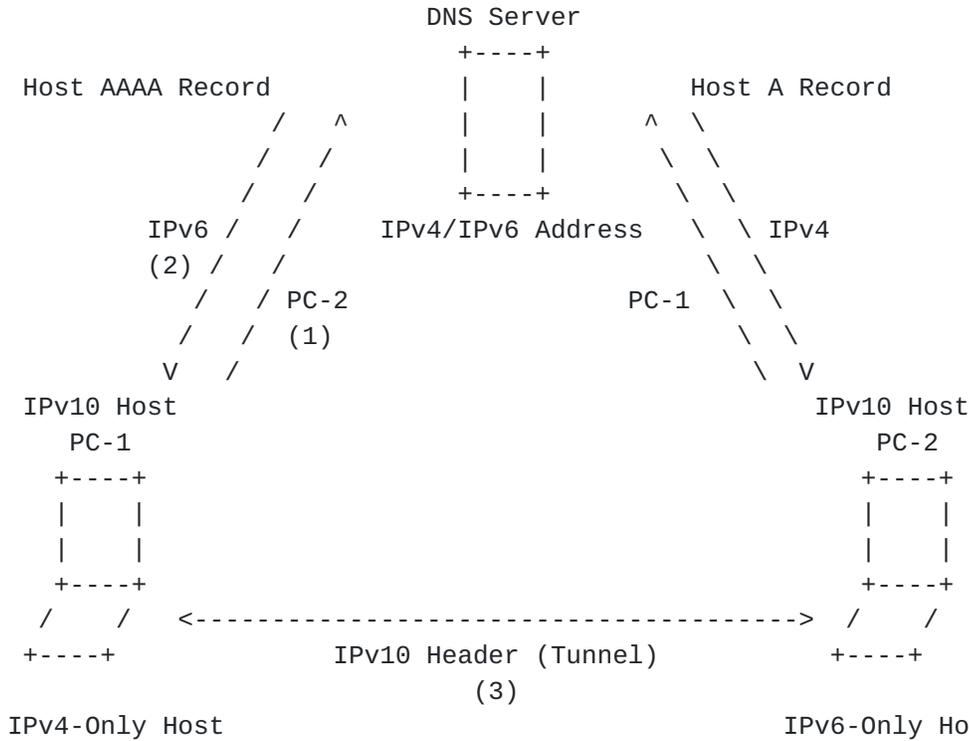
R1 & R2 have both IPv4/IPv6 routing enabled



IPv10: IPv4 host to IPv4 host

Important Notes: - All Internet connected hosts must be IPv10 hosts to be able to communicate regardless the used IP version, and the IPv10 deployment process can be accomplished by ALL technology companies developing OSs for hosts networking and security devices.

6. IPv10 with DNS.



Step-1 ==> PC-1 needs to communicate with PC-2, it sends a query to the DNS server (with either IPv4 or IPv6 address) to resolve the hostname PC-2.

Step-2 ==> The DNS server has a AAAA record for PC-2, and reply with PC-2's IPv6 address.

Step-3 ==> PC-1 can now communicate with PC-2 using IPv10 Header.

Similarly, PC-2 can communicate with PC-1 using the same method.

Security Considerations

The security features of IPv10 are described in the Security Architecture for the Internet Protocol [[RFC-2401](#)].

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References

[RFC-2401] Stephen E. Deering and Robert M. Hinden, "IPv6 Specification", [RFC 2460](#), December 1998.

IANA Considerations

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