464XLAT/NAT64 Optimization

draft-ietf-v6ops-464xlat-optimization-03

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Problem Statement

• In IPv6-only networks using NAT46 (464XLAT, MAP-T), IPv4-only devices flows to dual-stack CDNs/Caches/services are terminated as IPv4, which means extra translations and the subsequent unnecessary overload
  – In many cases this may become a show-stopper

• In equivalent IPv4-only CGN use cases, the CDNs accept “private” addresses (typically 100.64.0.0/10) to avoid exactly the same issues
A typical 464XLAT deployment is depicted in Figure 1.

![Diagram of Typical 464XLAT Deployment]

As it can be observed in the preceding picture, the situation is the same, regardless of in case of a wired network with a CE Router or a cellular network where a UE is connecting other devices (which may be IPv4-only or have IPv4-only apps), by means of a tethering functionality.

If the operator is providing direct access to Content Delivery Networks (CDNs), caches, or other resources, and they are dual-stacked, the situation can be described as shown in Figure 2.

![Diagram of Typical 464XLAT Deployment with Direct Access]

Figure 1: Typical 464XLAT Deployment

Figure 2: Typical 464XLAT Deployment with Direct Access
IPv6-Capable device

Figure 3: 464XLAT access to CDNs/Caches by IPv6–capable apps

However, if the devices or applications are IPv4-only, for example, most of the SmartTVs and Set-Top-Boxes available today, a non-optimal double translation will occur (NAT46 at the CLAT and NAT64 at the PLAT), as illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4: 464XLAT access to CDNs/Caches by IPv4-only apps

Clearly, this is a non-optimal situation, as it means that even if there is a dual-stack service, the NAT46/CLAT translated IPv4 to IPv6 traffic flow, is unnecessarily translated back to IPv4, traversing the stateful NAT64. This has a direct impact in the need to scale the NAT64 beyond what will be actually needed if possible solutions.
IPv4-only device

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Figure 4: 464XLAT access to CDNs/Caches by IPv4-only apps

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IPv4-only device (optimized)

4.  Solution Approaches

4.1.  Approach 1: DNS/Routing-based Solution

Because the IPv4-only devices will not be able to query for AAAA records, the NAT46/CLAT/CE will translate the IPv4 addresses from the A record for the CDN/cache destination, using the WKP or NSP, as configured by the operator.

Figure 5: Optimized 464XLAT access to CDNs/Caches by IPv4-only apps
Approach 1: DNS/Routing-based

- CLAT translate A records into AAAA:
  - WKP::A or NSP::A

- CDN/Cache provider configures dedicated interfaces to match WKP::A or NSP::A

www.example.com A 192.0.2.1
CLAT translated to 64:ff9b::192.0.2.1
CDN IPv6 interface must be 64:ff9b::192.0.2.1
Operator must have a specific route to 64:ff9b::192.0.2.1

- Issues:
  - Only works if “local/private” connectivity
  - CDN/Cache provider needs to do “something”
Approach 2: CLAT/DNS-proxy-EAMT

- NAT46/CLAT/CE is also a DNS proxy/stub resolver, so an internal interaction can be created.
- This approach uses existing IPv4 and IPv6 addresses (A, AAAA RRs), so no additional complexity for services.
- Steps:
  - Detection of IPv4-only devices
    - Same MAC bound only to IPv4 address, not IPv6.
  - Detection of IPv6-enabled service
  - Creation/maintenance of extended EAMT (RFC7757)
  - Forwarding path for existing EAMT entries via stateful NAT46


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Approach 2 Example

• Example

www.example.com A 192.0.2.1
AAAA 2001:db8::a:b:c:d

EAMT entry 192.0.2.1 2001:db8::a:b:c:d
NAT64/CLAT translated to 2001:db8::a:b:c:d
CDN IPv6 interface already is 2001:db8::a:b:c:d
Operator already has specific route to 2001:db8::a:b:c:d

1. A query for www.example.net A RR is received
2. www.example.net A 192.0.2.1
3. www.example.netAAAA 2001:db8::e:e:f:f
4. A conflict has been detected
5. The existing EAMT entry for 192.0.2.1 is set to stale
   (it can be used to continue existing previous connections, but not new ones)
Approach 2: Additional Considerations

• Behavior in case of multiple A/AAAA RR\s
• Behavior in case of presence/absence of DNS64
• Behavior when using literal addresses or non IPv6-APIs
• Behavior in case of Foreign DNS
  – Devices/apps using other DNS
  – DNS privacy/encryption
  – DNS modified by user in OS
  – DNS modified by user in CE
  – Combinations of above
• False detection of a dual-stack host as IPv4-only
• Behavior in presence of HE
• Troubleshooting implications
Approach 3: CLAT-provider-EAMT

- Similar to previous one, but no "automated" EAMT
- Operator must push or CE must pull the table
- It will work even if user change DNS for STB, SmartTV, …
- More control from the operator
  - EAMT pairs may be built “apart” from DNS
- Issues:
  - Increase complexity
    - Is the benefit worth for it?
  - The CDN/cache provider needs to provide API to update the EAMT, or the operator use their own caches to build it
Questions?

- This is a v6ops WG document, so we are having the discussion in v6ops

- Last version has been published, to resolve previous inputs a couple of days ago

- We will respond to existing inputs/questions in v6ops in the next few days