• Much ethernet HW does > 1500 byte MTU
• Hard in practice: all systems on a subnet must have same MTU = set manually
• So: agree to larger MTU between pairs of nodes
• Advertise MTU in ND or ARP option, send test packets to make sure it works, keeps working
• Much simpler than earlier versions of the draft
• Hosts test to/from routers, less work for router
• Optimize away test packets where possible
• Ready to go for publication as experimental
Big Packet Advantages

- More room for additional headers without path MTU discovery breakage
- Lower overhead, especially with large headers
- Less per packet work in hosts = faster
- Less per packet work in routers = possible power/heat savings
- Better TCP performance
Disadvantages

• More delay and jitter
• so only do 1500+ at 1000 Mbps or faster
• Depend more on path MTU discovery.

However:

• you see the problem if you break PMTUD
• you can always reduce MTU (not increase...)
• few problems with large MTU in middle