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IPv6 Rapid Deployment (6rd) in a Large Data Center
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Abstract

IPv6 Rapid Deployment (6rd) as defined in RFC 5969 focuses on rapid deployment of IPv6 by an access service provider which has difficulty deploying native IPv6. This document describes how 6rd can be used to deliver IPv6 within a Large Data Center.

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1. Introduction

IPv6 Rapid Deployment (6rd) as defined in RFC 5969 focuses on rapid deployment of IPv6 by an access service provider which has difficulty deploying native IPv6. This document describes how one service provider in Japan, Sakura Internet, Inc., not for a large residential deployment, but for a large data center network.

While the protocol mechanism of 6rd is unchanged, the deployment model varies a bit from the classical "residential home access provider" model.

The motivation for using 6rd is very similar to that of the residential case where the service provider would like to offer IPv6 quickly to those users who want it, but without replacing equipment that currently does not support IPv6.

This document is provided as information to the Internet community.

2. Network Architecture

The case study presented here is based on the services provide by Sakura Internet Inc. Sakura Internet provides Internet services through Internet backbones and large data centers.

Sakura offers four types of services:

1. Housing Service, which provides Collocation and Internet Access on 5 urban datacenters (4 in Tokyo, 1 in Osaka)
2. Hosting Service, which provides shared service on the servers.
3. Dedicated Server Service, which provides customer dedicated server with variable OSs.
4. Virtual Private Server Service (VPS), which provides guest operating system on the Kernel-based Virtual Machine (KVM).

At the time of this writing, Sakura serves more than 200 Gpbs of traffic on its backbones, and around 50,000 dedicated servers, Virtual Private Servers, and collocated servers.

Figure.1 describes server-based 6rd in datacenter's network architecture.

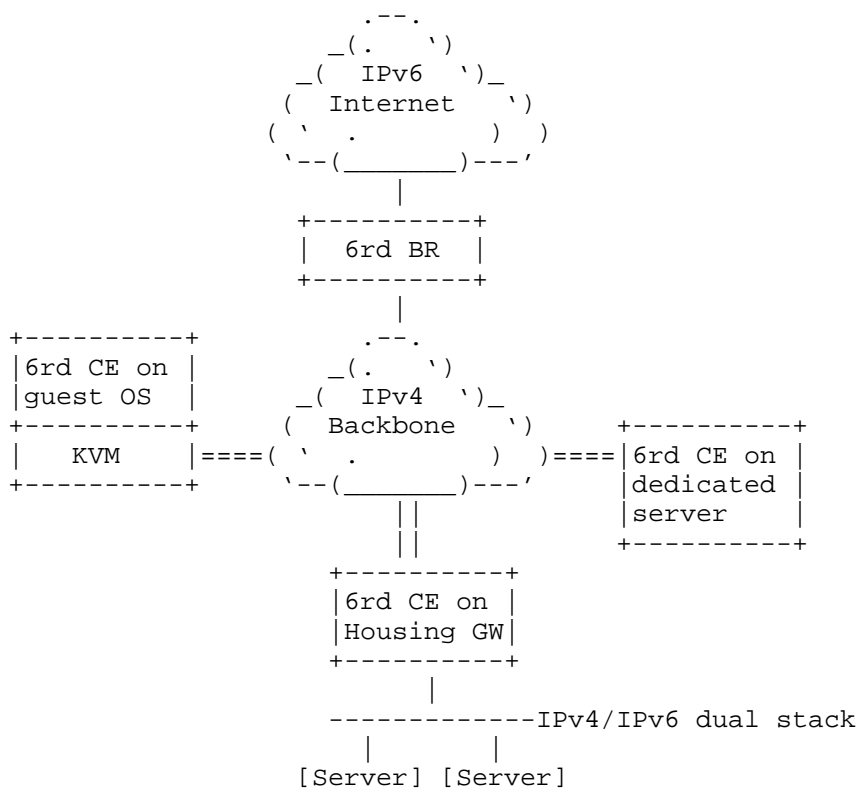


Figure 1

Sakura has deployed commercial 6rd Border Relays, and relies on CE functionality in gateway routers or directly within the operating system of the servers.

In the latter model, there is no need for a CE gateway as the 6rd function is implemented directly in the server operating system itself.

-For Housing users, there are two options. Either the 6rd CE function is performed on the Gateway router itself, or the servers themselves can run 6rd directly.

-For Hosting users, IPv6 service can start by deploying 6rd CE function on the server OS or guest OS on the KVM.

Server administrators can start IPv6 service on demand themselves by using server-based 6rd.

There were some issues when Sakura considers IPv6 deployment on their backbone.

1. Some backbone switches are too old.

IPv6 Switching would be software switching even if IPv4 Switching in hardware. It needs replacement.

2. Some backbone switches required software upgrade.

IPv6 supports on hardware. But software upgraded is needed. In datacenter, there is different requirement on each server, even if the server connected to the same switch. Because the server administrator are completely different. Each server is providing different service to the different customers. So backbones maintenance time negotiation to the customer is very difficult.

To provide native IPv6 service to the existing customer, it needs cost, time and negotiation.

This is the reason why Sakura decided to provide server-based 6rd to the existing customer.

3. 6rd Availability in Server Operating Systems

In particular for the server-initiated case, Sakura relies on 6rd availability in Server operating systems.

Linux kernel has started to support 6rd since 2.6.33. So if Linux based Operating Systems are using 2.6.33 and the later, it can provides server-based 6rd.

FreeBSD and CentOS could not provide 6rd in default, but the patch exist.

Operating Systems	Linux Kernel	Description
Fedora14 and the later	2.6.35 and above	Server-based 6rd ready
Ubuntu 10.10 and the later	2.6.35 and above	Server-based 6rd ready
Debian6.0	2.6.32	Kernel update needs
CentOS5.6	2.6.18	needs [CentOS patch1][CentOS patch2]
FreeBSD8	N/A	needs [BSD patch]

4. Deployment Consideration

4.1. IPv4 compression address

6rd protocol specification is defined on [RFC5969]. Section 4 of [RFC5969] describes o-bit which can compress 32 bit IPv4 address in the 6rd delegated prefix. Linux Kernel also supports this feature.

So customer could get some IPv6 prefixes even if datacenter's prefix is /32.

But [BSD patch] doesn't has the feature of aggregate IPv4 address, therefore datacenter provider has to prepare /32 IPv6 prefix at least in that case.

In Sakura's case, 6rd prefix address using /32, and no compression IPv4 address. Thus the delegated 6rd address length is /64. It is enough address space for server-based 6rd.

4.2. Configuration

Section 7.1 of [RFC5969] describes 6rd CE automatic configuration method such as DHCP, TR-69 and so on.

But server-based 6rd does not needs automatic configuration because the server usually configure IPv4 address statically.

4.3. MTU consideration

Section 9.1 of [RFC5969] describes about Maximum Transmission Unit(MTU) on 6rd tunnel. This guide also applicable for server-based 6rd.

But datacenter's IPv4 network is well-managed and is known by the server administrator. So 6rd CE's tunnel MTU could set be -20 byte from IPv4 MTU.

If the 6rd CE would be TCP server such as WWW, TCP MSS(Maximum Segment Size) will be calculated automatically from tunnel MTU.

5. Acknowledgements

The authors thank Hiroki Sato and Masakazu Asama, who made BSD&CentOS patch.

6. IANA Considerations

This document has no actions for IANA.

7. Security Considerations

This document has no security considerations.

8. References

8.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.
- [RFC5969] Townsley, W. and O. Troan, "IPv6 Rapid Deployment on IPv4 Infrastructures (6rd) -- Protocol Specification", RFC 5969, August 2010.

8.2. Informative References

- [BSD patch] ""BSD patch"", <http://people.allbsd.org/~hrs/FreeBSD/stf_6rd_20100923-1.diff>.
- [CentOS] ""The Community ENTERprise Operating System"", <<http://www.centos.org/>>.
- [CentOS patch1] ""CentOS Kernel patch"", <http://enog.jp/~masakazu/6rd/kernel-2.6.18-238.9.1.el5.6rd.x86_64.rpm>.
- [CentOS patch2] ""CentOS iproute patch"", <http://enog.jp/~masakazu/6rd/iproute-2.6.18-11.6rd.x86_64.rpm>.
- [Debian] ""Debian -- The Universal Operating System"", <<http://www.debian.org/>>.
- [Fedora] ""Fedora Project Homepage"", <<http://fedoraproject.org/>>.
- [FreeBSD] ""The FreeBSD Project"", <<http://www.freebsd.org/>>.
- [Linux 2.6.33] ""sit: 6rd (IPv6 Rapid Deployment) Support."", <http://kernelnewbies.org/Linux_2_6_33>.

- [RFC3849] Huston, G., Lord, A., and P. Smith, "IPv6 Address Prefix Reserved for Documentation", RFC 3849, July 2004.
- [RFC5569] Despres, R., "IPv6 Rapid Deployment on IPv4 Infrastructures (6rd)", RFC 5569, January 2010.
- [RFC5737] Arkko, J., Cotton, M., and L. Vegoda, "IPv4 Address Blocks Reserved for Documentation", RFC 5737, January 2010.
- [RFC5952] Kawamura, S. and M. Kawashima, "A Recommendation for IPv6 Address Text Representation", RFC 5952, August 2010.
- [Ubuntu] "Ubuntu Homepage", <<http://www.ubuntu.com/>>.

Appendix A. Additional Stuff

A.1. OS configuration

A.1.1. Network Topology&Parameters

Describes configuration of each on OS,for reference.

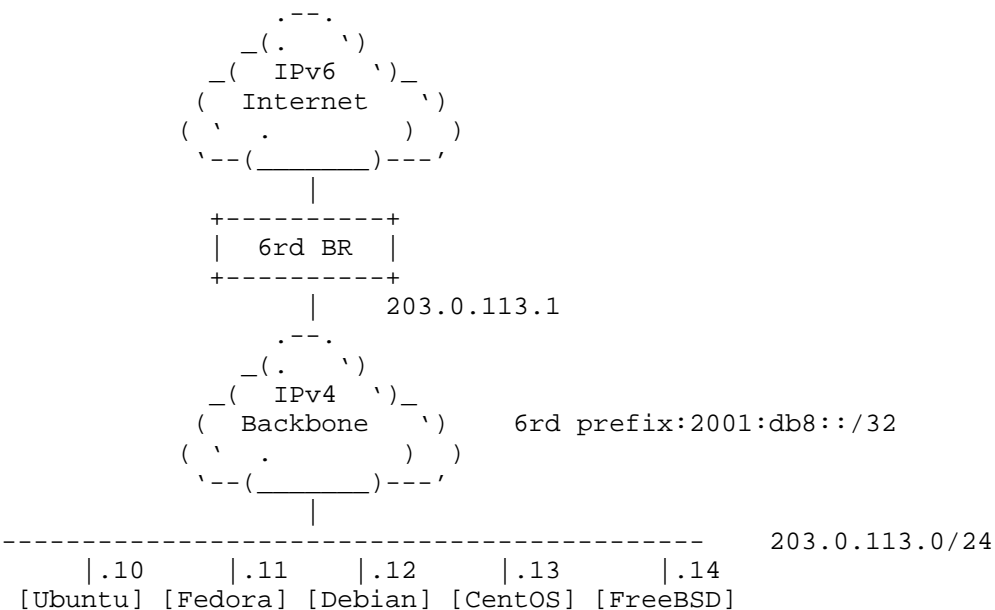


Figure 2

common parameter

BR IPv4 address	6rd prefix	IPv4MaskLen
203.0.113.1	2001:db8::/32	0

individual parameter

OS	IPv4 address	6rd delegated prefix
[Ubuntu]	203.0.113.10	2001:db8:cb00:710a::/64
[Fedora]	203.0.113.11	2001:db8:cb00:710b::/64
[Debian]	203.0.113.12	2001:db8:cb00:710c::/64
[CentOS]	203.0.113.13	2001:db8:cb00:710d::/64
[FreeBSD]	203.0.113.14	2001:db8:cb00:710e::/64

A.1.2. configuration procedure

A.1.2.1. Ubuntu

```
-modify "/etc/network/interfaces"

# vi /etc/network/interfaces
auto tun6rd
iface tun6rd inet6 v4tunnel
    address 2001:db8:cb00:710a::1
    netmask 32
    local 203.0.113.10
    endpoint any
    gateway ::203.0.113.1
    ttl 64
    up ip tunnel 6rd dev tun6rd 6rd-prefix 2001:db8::/32
    up ip link set mtu 1280 dev tun6rd

-reboot
```

A.1.2.2. Fedora

```
-make "/etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-sit1"

# vi /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-sit1
DEVICE=sit1
IPV6INIT=yes
IPV6_MTU=1280
IPV6_DEFAULTGW=::203.0.113.1
IPV6TUNNELIPV4=any
IPV6TUNNELIPV4LOCAL=203.0.113.11
IPV6ADDR=2001:db8:cb00:710b::1/32

-mmodify "/etc/rc.local"

# vi /etc/rc.local
ip tunnel 6rd dev sit1 6rd-prefix 2001:db8::/32

-reboot
```

A.1.2.3. Debian

The latest version of Debian is 6.0. Debian 6.0's kernel is 2.6.32. So it is required upgrade kernel.

```
-modify "/etc/apt/sources.list"
```

```
# vi /etc/apt/sources.list
deb http://ftp.jp.debian.org/debian experimental main
deb-src http://ftp.jp.debian.org/debian experimental main

-upgrade kernel

# apt-get update
# apt-get -t experimental install linux-image-2.6.38-rc6-amd64

-reboot

-modify "/etc/network/interfaces"

# vi /etc/network/interfaces
auto tun6rd
iface tun6rd inet6 v4tunnel
    address 2001:db8:cb00:710c::1
    netmask 32
    local 203.0.113.12
    endpoint any
    gateway ::203.0.113.1
    ttl 64
up ip tunnel 6rd dev tun6rd 6rd-prefix 2001:db8::/32
up ip link set mtu 1280 dev tun6rd

-reboot
```

A.1.2.4. CentOS

The latest version of CentOS is 5.5. CentOS 5.5's kernel and iproute package does not supported 6rd. So it is required patch.

```
-download package

# wget http://enog.jp/~masakazu/6rd/kernel-2.6.18-238.9.1.el5.6rd.x86_64.rpm
# wget http://enog.jp/~masakazu/6rd/iproute-2.6.18-11.6rd.x86_64.rpm

-install package

# rpm -ivh kernel-2.6.18-238.9.1.el5.6rd.x86_64.rpm
# rpm -Uvh iproute-2.6.18-11.6rd.x86_64.rpm

-modify "/etc/yum.conf"

# vi /etc/yum.conf
exclude=kernel*,iproute

-modify "/etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-sit1"
```

```
# vi /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/ifcfg-sit1
DEVICE=sit1
IPV6INIT=yes
IPV6_MTU=1280
IPV6_DEFAULTGW>:::203.0.113.1
IPV6TUNNELIPV4=any
IPV6TUNNELIPV4LOCAL=203.0.113.13
IPV6ADDR=2001:db8:cb00:710d::1/32

modify "/etc/rc.local"

# vi /etc/rc.local
ip tunnel 6rd dev sit1 6rd-prefix 2001:db8::/32
```

-reboot

A.1.2.5. FreeBSD

FreeBSD does not support 6rd yet. But the patch exists.

-download patch

```
# cd /root
# fetch http://people.allbsd.org/~hrs/FreeBSD/stf\_6rd\_20100923-1.diff
```

-apply patch

```
# cd /usr/src
# patch -p0 < /root/stf_6rd_20100923-1.diff
```

-kernel module compile and install

```
# cd sys/modules/if_stf/
# make
# make install
```

-install manual

```
# cd /usr/src/share/man/
# make
# make install
```

-modify "/etc/rc.conf"

```
# vi /etc/rc.conf
ipv6_enable="YES"
cloned_interfaces="stf0"
ipv6_ifconfig_stf0="2001:db8:cb00:710e::1/32"
ipv6_defaultrouter="2001:db8:cb00:7101::1"

-reboot
```

A.2. OS Proportion on Sakura's VPS

The data of OS proportion on Sakura's VPS.

All of OSs could server-based 6rd.

Operating Systems	Proportion[%]
Ubuntu	31
Fedora	6
Debian	13
CentOS	39
FreeBSD	11

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