Comments on the ICNS Panel

by
Adrian Knoth, Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany
Jerzy Prekurat, Canadian Bank Note Company, Ltd., Canada

Srikant Akella Vardhana (Infosys Technologies Ltd., India) mentioned in his panel talk the need for a coordinated IPv6 migration. The question arose if IPv6 will ever fly with or without a business case.

Adrian Knoth (Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany) pointed out that introducing a second rate Internet access might probably work for users who simply want to surf the web and don't rely on the end-to-end principle. An Internet Service Provider (ISP) could then introduce Network Address Translation (NAT) to lower the pressure on his address pool.

So if there are people requiring first rate connectivity, deploying IPv6 might actually be cheaper than acquiring more IPv4 addresses. This would be the IPv6 business case, and according to Srikant the only way for an ISP to grow.

The audience shortly discussed the possibility of large-scale IPv4 renumbering, handing back unused subnetworks of early /8 allocations and even selling/hiring IPv4 addresses on Ebay. From a cost perspective, IPv6 deploying might be the better option, not taking into account the need to be compatible with the "old" Internet.

Jerzy Prekurat (Canadian Bank Note Company, Ltd.) stated the requirement for unaltered Internet access, also known as network neutrality. His company runs branches in 40 countries all over the world and relies on IPsec to encrypt the traffic. "When talking about next generation Internet, be sure not to break the old one", Jerzy said.

In response to panelist Juan J. Flores (Universidad Michoacana, Mexico), Adrian questioned the prospected impact of distributed intrusion detection systems (IDS). Jerzy seconded this objection; IDS see the very internal traffic of a company's network, so relaying this information to the public, even for the purpose of IDS, is too delicate to happen. Even more, his company is obliged by governmental contracts to avoid disclosure of any data at all.

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