

IPv6

IPv6 Notation

IPv6 addresses are 128 bits long (32 hexadecimal numbers) and consist of eight colon-delimited sections. Each section contains 2 bytes, and each byte is expressed as a hexadecimal number from 0 through FF. An IPv6 address looks like this:

2001:0db8:0000:0000:0000:0800:200c:7334

By omitting the leading zeroes from each section or substituting contiguous sections that contain zeroes with a double colon, you can write the example address as:

2001:db8:0:0:0:800:200c:7334 -> 2001:db8::800:200c:7334

IPv6 Prefix

An IPv6 address can be broken into a network address space and the nodes address space. The prefix length is a decimal value that specifies the **number of the leftmost bits** in the address that make up the prefix. The prefix length follows a forward slash and, identifies the portion of the address owned by an organization. All remaining bits (up to the right-most bit) represent individual nodes or interfaces.

For example, 2001:db8:0000:0000:250:af:34ff:fe26/64 has a prefix length of 64.

The first 64 bits of this address (2001:db8:0000:0000) are the prefix. The rest (250:af:34ff:fe26) identify the interface.

Scopes

- GLOBAL - everything (i.e. the whole internet)
- UNIQUE LOCAL - everything in our LAN (behind the internet gateway)
- LINK LOCAL - (will never be routed, valid in one collision domain, i.e. on the same switch)

range	Purpose
::1/128	Loopback address (localhost)
::/128	unspecified address
2000::/3	GLOBAL unicast (Internet)
fc00::/7	Unique-local (LAN)
fe80::/10	Link-Local Unicast (same switch)

Always use the smallest possible scope for communication A host can have multiple addresses in different scopes

IPv6 Address Types

Unicast

Prefix	Type	Explanation	IPv4 equivalent
fc00::/7	Unique Local Addresses (ULAs)	Example: fdf8:f53b:82e4::53 These addresses are reserved for local use in home and enterprise environments and are not public address space. Packets with these addresses in the source or destination fields are not intended to be routed on public Internet.	Private, or RFC 1918 address space: 10.0.0.0/8 172.16.0.0/12 192.168.0.0/16
fe80::/10	Link-Local Addresses	Example: fe80::200:5aee:feaa:20a2 These addresses are used on a single link or a non-routed common access network, such as an Ethernet LAN. They do not need to be unique outside of that link. Link-local addresses may appear as the source or destination of an IPv6 packet. Routers must not forward IPv6 packets if the source or destination contains a link-local address.	169.254.0.0/16
2000::/3	Global Unicast	the operators of networks using these addresses can be found using the Whois servers of the RIRs listed in the registry at: http://www.iana.org/assignments/ipv6-unicast-address-assignments	No equivalent single block
::/128	Unspecified	This address may only be used as a source address by an initialising host before it has learned its own address.	0.0.0.0
::1/128	Loopback	This address is used when a host talks to itself over IPv6. This often happens when one program sends data to another.	127.0.0.1
::ffff/96	IPv4-Mapped	Example: ::ffff:192.0.2.47 These addresses are used to embed IPv4 addresses in an IPv6 address. One use for this is in a dual stack transition scenario where IPv4 addresses can be mapped into an IPv6 address. See RFC 4038 for more details.	There is no equivalent. However, the mapped IPv4 address can be looked up in the relevant RIR's Whois database.

Multicast

Multicast addresses support 16 different types of address scope, including node, link, site, organization, and global scope. A 4-bit field in the prefix identifies the address scope. The following types of multicast addresses can be used in an IPv6 subscriber access network:

- Solicited-node multicast address—Neighbor Solicitation (NS) messages are sent to this address.
- All-nodes multicast address—Router Advertisement (RA) messages are sent to this address.
- All-routers multicast address—Router Solicitation (RS) messages are sent to this address.

Prefix	Explanation
ff02::1	All nodes on the local network segment
ff02::2	All routers on the local network segment
ff02::f	UPNP (Universal Plug and Play) devices
ff02::fb	multicast DNS IPv6
ff02::101	network time (NTP)
ff02::1:2	All DHCPv6 servers and relay agents on the local network segment

Prefix	Explanation
ff05::1:3	All DHCPv6 servers on the local network site
ff05::101	all NTP server (site)

Special

Prefix	Type	Explanation	IPv4 equivalent
2001:0000::/32	Teredo IPv6 tunneling	Example: 2001:0000:4136:e378:8000:63bf:3fff:fdd2 This is a mapped address allowing IPv6 tunneling through IPv4 NATs. The address is formed using the Teredo prefix, the server's unique IPv4 address, flags describing the type of NAT, the obfuscated client port and the client IPv4 address, which is probably a private address. It is possible to reverse the process and identify the IPv4 address of the relay server, which can then be looked up in the relevant RIR's Whois database.	No equivalent
2002::/16	6to4	Example: 2002:cb0a:3cdd:1::1 A 6to4 gateway adds its IPv4 address to this 2002::/16, creating a unique /48 prefix. As the IPv4 address of the gateway router is used to compose the IPv6 prefix, it is possible to reverse the process and identify the IPv4 address, which can then be looked up in the relevant RIR's Whois database. There is no equivalent but 192.88.99.0/24 has been reserved as the 6to4 relay anycast address prefix by the IETF. You can do this on the following webpage: http://www.potaroo.net/cgi-bin/ipv6addr	No equivalent

Subnetting

bits (MSB)	Purpose
First 48 bits:	Network address
Next 16 bits:	Subnet address
Last 64 bits:	Device address

Network+Subnet = Prefix

The following address

2003:1000:1000:1600:1234::1

would have the network 2003:1000:1000, the subnet 1600, so together the prefix 2003:1000:1000:1600. If the ISP provider delegated a part of the prefix to me (e.g. 2003:1000:1000:1600/56) then I could use the subnets from 2003:1000:1000:1600 to 2003:1000:1000:16FF for my own purposes (i.e. define 256 subnets in this example)

Assign IPv6 address

Ways to assign IPv6 addresses:

1. Static - fixed address

2. SLAAC - Stateless Address Autoconfiguration (host generates itself)
3. DHCPv6 - Dynamic host configuration protocol (assigned by central server)

Network Discovery

```
ip -6 neigh show
```

```
fda1:a50c:1f31:a:291f:4bfe:8a4f:7cd8 dev enp1s0 STALE
fe80::ba27:ebff:fe1c:7fc0 dev enp1s0 STALE
2001:1c00:2e39:4ac::1 dev enp1s0 router STALE
* * *
* * *
2001:1c00:2c19:4ac:ba27:ebff:feff:7faa dev enp1s0 STALE
fda1:a50c:ca30:c::1 dev enp1s0 router STALE
2001:1c00:2e18:4ac:230:59ff:fe19:135d dev enp1s0 STALE
```

FAILED indicates that the system could not be reached. STALE indicates that the connection hasn't been recently verified.

Or use ping6:

```
ping6 -c3 -n -I enp1s0 ff02::1 --> lists all link local addresses
ping6 -c3 -n -I <your network interface 2001 ip> ff02::1 --> lists all
global addresses
ping6 -c3 -n -I <your network interface fda1 ip> ff02::1 --> lists all
local network addresses
```

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