

SUMMARY

Results of the first IPv6 Megaconference

Held June 8, 2011

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OVERVIEW

On World IPv6 Day, June 8, 2011, many people and organizations were to use the new Internet addresses of IPv6. In order to include the video conferencing world in this event, a Megaconference was held in which everyone in the world who has IPv6 video conferencing capability was invited to participate.

ORGANIZATION AND PARTICIPATION

The event ran from 00 to 24 GMT and was hosted from three locations in order to provide continuous time coverage.

- 00:00-07:00 GMT Hosted by Paul Hii, Monash University, and Jason Bordujenko, AARnet, Australia. Asia and Australia connected to any MCU. (No local MCU was available.)
- 07:00-12:00 GMT Hosted by David Vrtin, ARNES, Slovenia. European participants connected to ARNES MCU.
- 12:00-24:00 GMT Hosted by Ken Fox and Bob Dixon, OARnet, Ohio. Western Hemisphere participants connected to any Internet2 MCU.

Four MCUs were cascaded together in a star configuration. The MCUs were Tandberg/Codian. We were not successful in using any other brand.

There was participation from 14 countries, with about 60 endpoints:

Australia

China

Croatia

Finland

Germany

Greece

Japan

Malaysia

New Zealand

Pakistan

Portugal

Slovenia

United Kingdom

United States (11 different states)

All the participants were from higher education national networks and schools, with no representation from K-12. LifeSize, based in Texas, was the only commercial participant.

Equipment used comprised the following vendors:

Tandberg, used by 17 participants

LifeSize, used by 15

Polycom, used by 12

Conference Me, used by 3

Miscellaneous others, used by one participant each.

AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Most of the participants had not previously tested or activated their IPv6 networks or endpoint capabilities, so there was considerable advance work and testing at all locations to get them working.

Many complained about the unsuitability of the remote control to enter IPv6 addresses. This is understandable, since the addresses are long, complex and contain letters, numbers and colons. Many resorted to connecting through the web interfaces of their endpoints.

Though the Internet2 Commons gatekeeper is fully IPv6 enabled, none of the endpoints tested could register during the event. Had the endpoints registered with the gatekeepers, we could have enabled E.164 dialing, such as the Global Dialing Scheme. This would have alleviated the remote control problem discussed above. We have subsequently learned that the Tandberg C20 endpoint is capable of registering with IPv6 gatekeepers.

Some equipment that claimed to support IPv6 either did not work correctly or did not work at all.

COMMENTS

This event was the impetus for many people around the world to learn more about IPv6 and to debug their networks and video equipment. That was certainly the case here at OARnet, and many others commented that they felt similarly. Some participants praised this event as a timely and good idea. Overall, it was a big success, with excellent video and audio quality from all locations.

A number of IPv6 software test tools were discovered and announced, and more are being added. They are listed on the Megaconference web pages.

The website for all Megaconferences is at <http://www.megaconference.org>.