12.1.2 IPv6 Feature Facts

The current IP addressing standard, version 4, will eventually run out of unique addresses, so a new system is being developed. It is named IP version 6 or IPv6. You should know about the following IPv6 features:

Feature	Description
Geographic assignment of addresses	 The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) assigns IPv6 addresses based on the following strategy: Public IPv6 addresses are grouped by major geographic region, such as a continent. Inside each region, the address is further subdivided by each ISP. Inside each ISP, the address is further subdivided for each customer or other smaller Internet registries.
Efficient route summarization	Route summarization combines blocks of addresses in a routing table as a single route. As IPv6 addresses are assigned by geographic region, then ISP, and then the customer, the route summarization of IPv6 addresses is efficient when compared to IPv4 route summarization.
No need for Network Address Translation (NAT) or Port Address Translation (PAT)	From the large amount of IP addresses afforded by IPv6, each device has a publicly registered address. Having a unique address for each device removes the need for NAT and PAT.
Native Internet Protocol Security (IPSec)	IPSec can be used to encrypt any traffic supported by the IP protocol. This includes Web, e-mail, Telnet, file transfer, and SNMP traffic as well as countless others. IPv6 has built-in support for the IPSec security protocol. Within an IPv4 environment, IPSec security features are available as add-ons but are required in IPv6.
Header improvements	IPv6 packet headers do not need to have their logical link address changed as the packet hops from router to router. This leads to a reduction in per-packet overhead.
Built-in Quality of Service (QoS)	Built-in support for bandwidth reservations make guaranteed data transfer rates possible. Within an IPv4 environment, Quality of Service features are available as add-ons but are not part of the native protocol.
Flow label	The <i>flow label</i> is a field in the IPv6 packet header. Packets belonging to the same stream, session, or flow share a common flow label value, making the session easily recognizable without having to open the inner packet to identify the flow.

112.1.4 IPv6 Address Facts

The Ipv6 address is a 128-bit binary number. A sample Ipv6 IP address looks like: 35BC:FA77:4898:DAFC:200C:FBBC:A007:8973. The following list describes the features of an Ipv6 address:

- The address is made up of 32 hexadecimal numbers, organized into 8 quartets.
- The quartets are separated by colons.
- Each quartet is represented as a hexadecimal number between 0 and FFFF. Each quartet represents 16-bits of data (FFFF = 1111 1111 1111 1111).
- Leading zeros can be omitted in each section. For example, the quartet 0284 could also be represented by 284.
- Addresses with consecutive zeros can be expressed more concisely by substituting a doublecolon for the group of zeros. For example:
 - o FEC0:0:0:0:78CD:1283:F398:23AB
 - FEC0::78CD:1283:F398:23AB (concise form)
- If an address has more than one consecutive location where one or more quartets are all zeros, only one location can be abbreviated. For example, FEC2:0:0:78CA:0:0:23AB could be abbreviated as:
 - FEC2::78CA:0:0:23AB or
 - FEC2:0:0:78CA::23AB

But not FEC2::78CA::23AB

- The 128-bit address contains two parts:
 - The first 64-bits is known as the *prefix*. The prefix includes the network and subnet address. Because addresses are allocated based on physical location, the prefix also includes global routing information. The 64-bit prefix is often referred to as the *global routing* prefix.
 - The last 64-bits is the *interface ID*. This is the unique address assigned to an interface.
 Note: Addresses are assigned to interfaces (network connections), not to the host.
 Technically, the interface ID is *not* a host address.

The 64-bit prefix can be divided into various parts, with each part having a specific meaning.

- The *prefix length* identifies the number of bits in the relevant portion of the prefix. To indicate the prefix length, add a slash (/) followed by the prefix length number.
- Bits past the end of the prefix length are all binary 0s. For example, the full 64-bit prefix for address 2001:0DB8:4898:DAFC:200C:FBBC:A007:8973 is 2001:0DB8:4898:DAFC:0000:0000:0000/64.
- Full quartets with trailing 0's in the prefix address can be omitted (for example 2001:0DB8:4898:DAFC::/64).
- If the prefix is not on a quartet boundary (this applies to any prefix that is not a multiple of 16), any hex values listed after the boundary should written as 0's. For example, the prefix 2001:0DB8:4898:DAFC::/56 should be written as 35BC:FA77:4898:DA00::/56. Remember, only *leading* 0's within a quartet can be omitted.
- Be aware that the prefix length number is a binary value, while the prefix itself is a hexadecimal value.

Global routing information is identified within the 64-bit prefix by subdividing the prefix using varying prefix lengths. The following graphic is an example of how the Ipv6 prefix could be divided:

2001:0DB8:4	898:DAFC::/64
RIR ::/12	
ISP ::/	32
Site	::/48
Subn	et ::/64

This sample assignment of Ipv6 addresses is explained in the following table:

Prefix	Description		
Regional Internet Registry (RIR)	The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is responsible for the assignment of Ipv6 addresses. ICANN assigns a range of IP addresses to Regional Internet Registry (RIR) organizations. Each current regional organization corresponds roughly to a continent. The exact size of the address range assigned to the RIR may vary, but current		
	guidelines assign a minimum prefix of 12-bits. In the above example, the RIR has been assigned a 12-bit prefix, and is responsible for addresses in the following range:		
	2000::/12 to 200F:FFFF:FFFF:FFFF:/64		
Internet	A regional organization subdivides its block of IP addresses into smaller blocks and assigns those blocks to National Internet Registries (NIR), Local Internet Registries (LIR), or Internet Service Providers (ISP). Larger organizations can further subdivide the address space to allocate to smaller ISPs.		
Service Provider (ISP)	The exact size of the address range assigned by the RIR may vary, but current guidelines assign a minimum prefix of 32-bits. In the above example, the ISP has been assigned a 32-bit prefix, and is therefore responsible for addresses in the following range:		
	2001:0DB8::/32 to 2001:0DB8:FFFF:FFFF::/64		

	Individual companies and other organizations request blocks of IP addresses from an ISP for use in their private networks. Each network organized by a single entity is often called a <i>site</i> , although the exact definition of the term is under debate. Although the exact size of the address range assigned to a site may vary, by convention, each site is assigned a 48-bit site ID. In the above example, the site is responsible for managing the addresses in the following range:	
	2001:0DB8:4898::/48 to 2001:0DB8:4898:FFFF::/64	
Site ISPs typically follow these guidelines for assigning address ranges to sites:		
	• By default, all sites that represent a network, including home networks, get an address with a 48-bit prefix.	
	• Sites that require an address space larger than this might be assigned two consecutive blocks, or might be allocated an address with a 47-bit prefix.	
	 If the network is known to have only a single subnet, the ISP might assign a 64-bit prefix. This is typically used for mobile devices. 	
	• If the network is known to have only a single device, such as a dialup connection, the ISP might assign a 128-bit prefix.	
Most networks receive an address range identified with a 48-bit prefix. The remaining the global routing prefix are then used by the local network administrator for creating In the example above, the site has received the prefix of 2001:0DB8:4898::/48. The list shows some of the subnets that could be created by the administrator using a 64 2001:0DB8:4898:0001::/64 2001:0DB8:4898:0002::/64 2001:0DB8:4898:0003::/64		
	2001:0DB8:4898:FFFD::/64 2001:0DB8:4898:FFFE::/64	
	2001:0DB8:4898:FFFF::/64	

In most cases, individual interface IDs are not assigned by ISPs, but are rather generated automatically or managed by site administrators. Interface IDs must be unique within a subnet, but can be the same if the interface is on different subnets. All addresses that identify a single interface, except those that start with 000 binary, but use a 64-bit interface ID that follows the modified EUI-64 format. On Ethernet networks, the modified EUI-64 format interface ID can be automatically derived from the MAC address using the following process:

- 1. The MAC address is split into 24-bit halves.
- The hex constant FFFE is inserted between the two halves to complete the 64-bit address. For example, 20-0C-FB-BC-A0-07 becomes: 200C:FBFF:FEBC:A007.
- 3. The seventh bit of the MAC address (reading from left to right) is set to binary 1. This bit is called the *universal/local (U/L)* bit.
 - o Modifying the seventh binary bit modifies the second hex value in the address.
 - For a MAC address of 20-0C-FB-BC-A0-07, the first two hex values translate to the following binary number: 0010 0000
 - Setting the seventh bit to 1 yields 0010 0010, which translates into 22 hex.

In this example, the MAC address of 20-0C-FB-BC-A0-07 in modified EUI-64 format becomes: 220C:FBFF:FEBC:A007 (portions in red indicate modified values).

12.1.5 IPv6 Address Types

In IPv6, addresses are assigned to interfaces (network connections). All interfaces are required to have some addresses, and interfaces can have more than one address. IPv6 identifies the following types of addresses:

Address Type	Description		
	Unicast addresses are assigned to a single interface for the purpose of allowing that one host to send and receive data. Packets sent to a unicast address are delivered to the interface identified by that address.		
	Described below are three types of unicast addresses.		
		<i>Link-local</i> addresses (also known as <i>local link</i> addresses) are addresses that are valid on only the current subnet.	
		 Link-local addresses have a FE80::/10 prefix. This includes any address beginning with FE8, FE9, FEA, or FEB. 	
	l ink-	 All nodes must have at least one link-local address, although each interface can have multiple addresses 	
	local	Routers never forward packets destined for local link addresses to other	
Unicast		 Link-local addresses are used for automatic address configuration, neighbor discovery, or for subnets that have no routers. 	
		Note : Do not use link-local IPv6 addressing on routed networks. Routers never forward packets destined for local link addresses to other subnets.	
	Unique local	Unique local addresses are private addresses used for communication within a site or between a limited number of sites. In other words, unique local addressing is commonly used for network communications within an organization that do not cross a public network; they are the equivalent of private addressing in IPv4.	
		 Unique local addresses have a FC00::/7 prefix. Currently, however, the 8th bit is always set to 1 to indicate that the address is local (and not global). Thus, addresses beginning with FC or FD are unique local addresses. 	
		 Following the prefix, the next 40-bits are used for the Global ID. The Global ID is generated randomly such that there is a high probability of uniqueness on the entire Internet 	
		 Following the Global ID, the remaining 16-bits in the prefix are used for subpet information 	
		 Unique local addresses are likely to be globally unique, but are not globally routable. Unique local addresses might be routed between sites by a local ISP. 	
		 Earlier IPv6 specifications defined a site-local address that was not globally unique and had a FEC0::/10 prefix. The site-local address has been replaced with the unique local address. 	
		Because unique local addresses are not registered with IANA, they cannot be used on a public network (such as the Internet) without address translation.	
		1	

		The process for designing a network addressing scheme when using unique local addresses is similar to that used for global unicast addresses. The key difference is how the prefix is defined. Because the address range is not registered, a global routing prefix does not have to be requested from an ISP. Instead, each organization defines the prefix to be used for their organization. However, there are several requirements that need to be observed when doing so.
		As with global unicast addressing, using this addressing scheme allows organizations to define a large number (2 ¹⁶) of IPv6 subnets. When using unique local addressing, separate IPv6 subnets should be identified for the following:
		Network segments separated by routers
		 VLANs Point-to-point WAN links (including both serial and Ethernet emulation links)
		<i>Global unicast</i> addresses are addresses that are assigned to individual interfaces that are globally unique (unique throughout the entire Internet). Global unicast addresses are any addresses that are not link-local, unique local, or multicast addresses.
		Originally, ISPs assigned global unicast addresses with a 2000::/3 prefix (this includes any address beginning with a 2 or a 3). However, this was later amended such that <i>all</i> IPv6 addresses that haven't been specifically reserved for other purposes are defined as global unicast addresses. The global routing prefix assigned to an organization by an ISP is typically 48 bits long (/48). However, it could be as short as /32 or as long as /56, depending upon the ISP.
	unicast	Using this addressing scheme allows organizations to define a large number (2^{16}) of IPv6 subnets. When designing an IPv6 network, separate IPv6 subnets should be defined for the following:
		Network segments separated by routers
		 VLANS Point-to-point WAN links (including both serial and Ethernet emulation links)
		All subnet IDs within the same organization must begin with the same global routing prefix, but must be uniquely identified using a different value in the subnet field.
	<i>Multicas</i> address address function function	<i>t</i> addresses represent a dynamic group of hosts. Packets sent to a multicast are sent to all interfaces identified by that address. By using a different multicast for different functions, only the devices that need to participate in the particular will respond to the multicast; devices that have no need to participate in the will ignore the multicast.
Multicast	• / • [All multicast addresses have a FF00::/8 prefix. Multicast addresses that are restricted to the local link only have a FF02::/16 prefix. Packets starting with FF02 are not forwarded by routers. Multicast addresses with a FF01::/16 prefix are restricted to a single node.
	You sho	uld be familiar with the following well-known multicast addresses:

	 FF02::1 is for all nodes on the local link. This is the equivalent of the IPv4 subnet broadcast address. FF01::1 is for all interfaces on a node. FF02::2 is for all routers on the local link. FF01::2 is for all routers on node-local. FF02::1:2 is for all DHCP servers or DHCP relay agents on the local link. DHCP relay agents forward these packets to other subnets. 	
Anycast	 The <i>anycast</i> address is a unicast address that is assigned to more than one interface, typically belonging to different hosts. An anycast packet is routed to the nearest interface having that address (based on routing protocol decisions). An anycast address is the same as a unicast address. Assigning the same unicast address to more than one interface makes it an anycast address. You can have link-local, unique local, or global unicast andress. When you assign an anycast address to an interface, you must explicitly identify the address as an anycast address (to distinguish it from a unicast address). Anycast addresses can be used to locate the nearest server of a specific type, for example the nearest DNS or network time server. 	
Loopback	The local loopback address for the local host is 0:0:0:0:0:0:0:1 (also identified as ::1 or ::1/128). The local loopback address is not assigned to an interface. It can be used to verify that the TCP/IP protocol stack has been properly installed on the host.	
Unspecified	The unspecified address is 0:0:0:0:0:0:0:0:0 (also identifies as :: or ::/128). The unspecified address is used when there is no IPv6 address. It is typically used during system startup when the host has not yet configured its address. The unspecified address should not be assigned to an interface.	

Note: There are no broadcast addresses in IPv6. IPv6 multicast addresses are used instead of broadcast addresses.

The following table lists the commands and details for configuring IPv6 addresses.

Use	То	
(config- if)#ipv6 address <ipv6- prefix/prefix- length> eui- 64</ipv6- 	 Configure a global IPv6 address with an interface identifier (ID) in the low-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address. Only the 64-bit network prefix for the address needs to be specified The last 64 bits are automatically computed from the interface ID. This command automatically configures an IPv6 link-local address on the interface while also enabling the interface for IPv6 processing. 	
#show ipv6 interface <type> <number></number></type>	 Verify that IPv6 addresses are configured correctly for the specified interface and validate the IPv6 status. If the interface's hardware is usable, the interface is marked up. If the interface can provide two-way communication for IPv6, the line protocol is marked up. 	

#show ipv6	
interface	Display a brief summary of IPv6 status and configuration for each interface.
brief	

Examples

The following example configures the Fa 0/0 interface for Global Unicast IPv6 processing and statically assigns an interface ID of ::20 on subnet 1.

Router(config)#int fa 0/0 Router(config-if)#ipv6 address 2001:0BEF:0BAD:001::20/64

The following example configures the Fa 0/0 interface for Unique Local Unicast IPv6 processing and statically assigns an interface ID of :: 20 on subnet 1.

Router(config)#int fa 0/0 Router(config-if)#ipv6 address FD01:0001:0001:001::20/64

12.2.2 IPv6 Configuration Facts

Method	Description	
Static full assignment	Static full assignment is where the entire 128-bit IPv6 address and all other configuration information is statically assigned to the host.	
Static partial assignment	Static partial assignment is where the prefix is statically assigned and the interface ID uses the modified EUI-64 format derived from the MAC address.	
Stateless autoconfiguration	 Stateless autoconfiguration is where clients automatically generate the interface ID, and learn the subnet prefix and default gateway through the Neighbor Discovery Protocol (NDP). NDP uses the following messages for autoconfiguration: Router solicitation (RS) is a message sent by the client to request that routers respond. Router advertisement (RA) is a message sent by the router periodically and in response to RS messages to inform clients of the IPv6 subnet prefix and the default gateway address. NDP is also used by hosts to discover the address of other interfaces on the network, replacing the need for Address Resolution Protocol (ARP). 	
	Note: Even though NDP provides enough information for the addressing of the client and for clients to learn the addresses of other clients on the network, it does not provide the client with DNS server information or other IP configuration information besides the IP address and the default gateway.	
DHCPv6	 IPv6 uses an updated version of DHCP (called DHCPv6) that operates in one of two different modes: Stateful DHCPv6 is when the DHCP server provides each client with the IP address, default gateway, and other IP configuration information (such as the DNS server IP address). The DHCP server tracks the status (or state) of the client. Stateless DHCPv6 does not provide the client an IP address and does not track the status of each client, but rather is used to supply the client with the DNS server IP address. Stateless DHCPv6 is most useful when used in conjunction with stateless autoconfiguration. 	

An IPv6 address is configured by any one of the following methods:

When a host starts up, it uses the following process to configure the IPv6 address for each interface:

- 1. The host generates an IPv6 address using the link-local prefix (FE80::/10) and modifying the MAC address to get the interface ID. For example, if the MAC address is 20-0C-FB-BC-A0-07, the link-local address for the interface would be: FE80::220C:FBFF:FEBC:A007.
- 2. The host then sends a neighbor solicitation (NS) message addressed to its own link-local address to see if the address it has chosen is already in use.
 - If the address is in use, the other network host responds with a neighbor advertisement (NA) message. The process stops and manual configuration of the host is required.
 - o If the address is not in use (no NA message), the process continues.

- 3. The host waits for a router advertisement (RA) message from a router to learn the prefix.
 - If an RA message is not received, the host sends out a router solicitation (RS) message addressed to all routers on the subnet using the multicast address FF02::2.
 - The router sends out an RA message addressed to all interfaces on the subnet using the multicast address FF02::1.
 - If no routers respond, the host attempts to use stateful DHCPv6 to receive configuration information.
- 4. The RA message contains information that identifies how the IPv6 address and other information is to be configured. Possible combinations are:

Configuration Method	Description
Use stateful autoconfiguration	Obtain the interface ID, subnet prefix, default gateway, and other configuration information from a DHCPv6 server. The host sends out a REQUEST message addressed to the multicast address FF02::1:2 to request this information from the DHCPv6 server.
Use stateless autoconfiguration	Set the interface ID automatically. Get the subnet prefix and default gateway from the RA message. Get DNS and other configuration information from a DHCPv6 server. The host sends out an INFORMATION-REQUEST message addressed to the multicast address FF02::1:2 to request this information from the DHCPv6 server.

5. If a manual address or stateful autoconfiguration is used, the host sends an NS message to make sure the address is not already in use. If stateless autoconfiguration is used, the NS message at this step is unnecessary because the interface ID has already been verified in step 2.

12.2.5 IPv6 Implementation Facts

The worldwide implementation from IPv4 to IPv6 will be a long process. Although not yet widely adopted, you can implement IPv6 if your systems support it. As the implementation of IPv6 proceeds, there will be cases when compatibility with IPv4 is required. The following table lists various strategies for deploying IPv6:

Method	Description		
<u>Dual</u> stack	With a <i>dual stack</i> configuration, both the IPv4 and IPv6 protocol stacks run concurrently on a host. IPv4 is used to communicate with IPv4 hosts, and IPv6 is used to communicate with IPv6 hosts. When implemented on hosts, intermediate routers and switches must also run both protocol stacks. Use a dual stack configuration to enable a host to communicate with both IPv4 and IPv6		
	hosts.		
	<i>Tunneling</i> wraps an IPv6 packet within an IPv4 packet, allowing IPv6 hosts or sites to communicate over the existing IPv4 infrastructure. With tunneling, a device encapsulates IPv6 packets in IPv4 packets for transmission across an IPv4 network, and then the packets are de-encapsulated to their original IPv6 packets by another device at the other end.		
	Several tunneling	solutions are listed below.	
Tunneling		With a manually configured tunnel, tunnel endpoints are configured as point-to-point connections between devices. Manual tunneling:	
	<u>Manually</u> <u>configured</u> <u>tunnel</u>	 Is configured between routers at different sites. Requires dual-stack routers as the tunnel endpoints. Hosts can be IPv6-only hosts. Works through NAT. Uses a static (manual) association of an IPv6 address with the IPv4 address of the destination tunnel endpoint. Because of the time and effort required for configuration, use manually applied by the problem of	
		configured tunnels only when you have a few sites that need to connect through the IPv4 Internet, or when you want to configure secure site-to-site associations.	
		With 6-to-4 tunneling, tunneling endpoints are configured automatically between devices. 6-to-4 tunneling:	
	<u>6-to-4 tunneling</u>	 Is configured between routers at different sites. Requires dual-stack routers as the tunnel endpoints. Hosts can be IPv6-only hosts. Works through NAT. Uses a dynamic association of an IPv6 site prefix to the IPv4 address of the destination tunnel endpoint. Automatically generates an IPv6 address for the site using the 2002::/16 prefix followed by the public IPv4 address of the tunnel endpoint router. For example, a router with the IPv4 address of 207.142.131.202 would serve the site with the following prefix: 	
		2002:CF8E:83CA::/48 (CF8E:83CA is the hexadecimal equivalent of 207.142.131.202).	

	Use 6-to-4 tunneling to dynamically connect multiple sites through the IPv4 Internet. Because of its dynamic configuration, 6-to-4 tunneling is easier to administer than manual tunneling.
	The Intra-site Automatic Tunnel Addressing Protocol (ISATAP) is a tunneling method for use <i>within</i> a site to provide IPv6 communication over a private IPv4 network. ISATAP tunneling:
	 Is configured between individual hosts and an ISATAP router. Requires a special dual-stack ISATAP router to perform tunneling, and dual-stack or IPv6-only clients. Dual stack routers and hosts perform tunneling when communicating on the IPv4 network. Does <i>not</i> work through NAT. Automatically generates link-local addresses that includes the IPv4
Intra-site Automatic Tunnel Addressing Protocol (ISATAP)	 address of each host: The prefix is the well-known link-local prefix: FE80::/16. The remaining prefix values are set to 0. The first two quartets of the interface ID are set to 0000:5EFE. The remaining two quartets use the IPv4 address, written in either dotted-decimal or hexadecimal notation.
	A host with an IPv4 address of 192.168.12.155 would have the following IPv6 address when using ISATAP: FE80::5EFE:C0A8:0C9B (also designated as FE80::5EFE:192.168.12.155).
	Use ISATAP to begin a transition to IPv6 <i>within</i> a site. You can start by adding a single ISATAP router and configuring each host as an ISATAP client.
	Teredo tunneling establishes the tunnel between individual hosts so they can communicate through a private or public IPv4 network. Teredo tunneling:
Teredo tunneling	 Is configured between individual hosts. Hosts are dual-stack hosts and perform tunneling of IPv6 to send on the IPv4 network. Works through NAT.
	Use Teredo tunneling to enable host-to-host communications between IPv6 devices through a public or private IPv4 network.

<u>Network Address</u> <u>Translation-Protocol</u> <u>Translation (NAT-PT)</u>	NAT-PT is a protocol that converts the IPv6 packet header into an IPv4 packet header, and vice versa. With NAT-PT, a translation table is referenced by the device, such as a Cisco router, as it converts the headers to ensure that the packet is sent to the correct host. This method is different than tunneling because the packet headers are converted between the IPv4 and IPv6, whereas tunneling wraps the IPv6 packet into an IPv4 packet. NAT-PT:
	 Is configured on a single router running NAT-PT. The router is a dual-stack router. Hosts run either IPv4 or IPv6. Use NAT-PT to allow IPv4 hosts to communicate with IPv6 hosts.