# IPv6-only IXPs are Coming?

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#### What's This All About?

- Making IPv4 last longer!
- RFC5549/8950 specifies a method for announcing IPv4 routes with IPv6 next-hop addresses using BGP
- Allows operators to save on IPv4 space in link networks
- The saved IPv4 space can go to NAT64 or CGNAT pools
- Routers still need **one** IPv4 address on a loopback interface for ICMP errors (traceroute, PMTUD etc) and various other uses
  - or they might send those messages from 192.0.0.8

#### RFC5549 In A Nutshell

- The original RFC5549 is from 2009
  - Initial implementations aimed mostly at MPLS VPN AFI/SAFIs
- RFC8950 replaced RFC5549 with a few small updates
- BGP routes for IPv4 nets will point to an IPv6 router address
- ARP replaced by IPv6 Neighbor Discovery (ND)
- IBGP next-hop-self even more important now
  - because some routers in IBGP might not support this spec

#### But IXPs? Why?

- Old IXPs already have IPv4 addresses
- APNIC even has a special address assignment policy for IXPs
- Why bother rocking the boat?

#### Renumbering an IXP Is Painful

- France-IX renumbering took almost two years 2019-2021
  - Thanks to Radu-Adrian Feurdean for dates
- AMS-IX last renumbered (/22 -> /21) in 2014
- DE-CIX renumbered once and changed netmask twice
- Many more examples...

## Alternative: One Final "Renumbering" Event

- When the peering subnet becomes full, think about whether you really want to go through the pain of renumbering again and again...
- ... or switch to IPv6 next-hops, which aren't about to run out
- All members typically already have IPv6 sessions
- RFC8950 is in production on three subnets at NIX (cz/sk)
- BCIX and TREX are also gathering experience on live nets

#### What About New IXPs?

- APNIC's IXP Address Space Assignment policy for IXPs:
  - Initial assignment is now /26
  - Multiple renumbering events needed even before you reach /24
- If we start with an IPv4 subnet, it's difficult to give it up later
- So take a chance to never have to renumber at all?
- We are trying this IPv6-only approach at TREX Turku
  - A new IXP, not a lot of connected members yet...

#### RFC8950-ixp Working Group

- Euro-IX started a working group to map out the challenges and to work on best practices for adopting RFC8950 at IXPs
  - Chairmen: André Grüneberg (BCIX) and Aleksi Suhonen (TREX)
  - Active members from DE-CIX, LINX, NIX.CZ, nic.cz ...
  - Also members from APIX, LAC-IX ...
- https://github.com/euro-ix/rfc8950-ixp
  - Pull requests accepted...
- There's also a mailing list and a mattermost chat channel

### RFC8950 Challenges

- The original RFC5549 is from 2009
  - Initial implementations aimed mostly at MPLS VPN AFI/SAFIs
- Interoperability hadn't been tested much before this
- ICMP Unreachables unpredictable on some platforms
- Since we began this work, a lot of platforms have matured
  - We've discovered and reported many bugs
  - Some have been fixed
  - Some new platforms now support RFC8950

### Junos Config Example 1/2

```
[edit interfaces irb unit 7]
description EXCHANGE Turku;
family inet {
   filter {
        input spoof-protect-trex;
family inet6 {
   filter {
        input 6spoof-protect-trex;
    address 2001:7f8:1d:7::72f8:1/64;
```

- The family inet section has to exist for the router to process IPv4 traffic
- But it doesn't need an address.

## Junos Config Example 2/2

```
[edit protocols bgp group peering-rfc8950]
type external;
export [ 6export_peering 4export_peering deny-all ];
import [ 4hygiene 6hygiene deny-tier1s 4import_peering 6import_peering deny-all ];
family inet {
    unicast {
        prefix-limit maximum 9999;
        extended-nexthop;
family inet6 {
    unicast {
        prefix-limit maximum 999;
```

#### Junos Show Route Example

```
axu@betty> show route 193.163.5.0 terse
inet.0: 975756 destinations, 1499988 routes (507404 active, 0 holddown, 728982 hidden)
 = Active Route, - = Last Active, * = Both
 V Destination
                   P Prf
                             Metric 1
                                       Metric 2 Next hop
                                                                AS path
 V 193.163.5.0/24
                                  300
                                                >2001:7f8:1d:7:0:3:289b:2 207003 I
                     B 170
                                  300
                                                >2001:7f8:1d:7:0:3:289b:1 207003 I
                     B 170
                     B 170
                                 100
                                                >195.140.192.47 207003 I
                     B 170
                                  60
                                              0 >195.140.192.13 6667 207003 I
axu@betty>
```

## Thank you!

Questions?