

**Internet Topics: World IPv6 Launch**

The World IPv6 Launch will be held to enable IPv6 by default.

In the wake of the success of World IPv6 Day, which was held on June 8, 2011, an event for IPv6 implementation will be held soon. This is the event that has been called World IPv6 Week or World IPv6 \$NEXT since the end of World IPv6 Day. Because the word "week" had already been used for Regional IPv6 Week held in Central and South America in February 2012, and had negative connotations due to its similarity to "weak," it was decided that another name should be used. World IPv6 Day used "Test Flight" as its catch phrase, so "Launch" was chosen to complement this. We were not able to disclose the name until its official announcement in January 2012, so until then it was called the \$NEXT (variable) event, being the next milestone planned.

World IPv6 Day was a test flight for IPv6 implementation in which cooperating content providers supported IPv6 for the limited period of 24 hours to identify what problems and issues its implementation would cause. With supporters from all over the world rallying together and providing IPv6 support for a host of content, including big-name sites, we gained new insight into IPv6 implementation for content sites in a range of environments around the world. World IPv6 Day itself only lasted 24 hours, but many content sites continue to provide IPv6 support after the event, creating a valuable opportunity to examine IPv6 implementation from a content perspective.

Following on from the success of World IPv6 Day, the World IPv6 Launch will be held on June 6, 2012, to further promote IPv6 implementation. This event aims to make IPv6 more usable as part of everyday activities. Content must of course support IPv6 as standard to achieve this, but it must be possible to carry out communications via IPv6 normally without requiring any special configuration or effort once general users have the necessary Internet connection environment in place. For this reason, we have called for ISPs and home router vendors who provide services to individual users to attend this event alongside content providers.

Those who support this event and wish to participate must refer to the preconditions set for each participant category, and declare that they will meet those preconditions. This is a form of public pledge, and participants must be prepared to fulfill the preconditions by June 6. On the day of the event there are plans to measure whether each participant was actually able to fulfill the preconditions. The three participant categories at this event are "Network Operator," "Home Router Vendor," and "Website Operator," with preconditions set for each based on IPv6 enabled by default. See the following information service sites for more details.

- World IPv6 Launch  
- <http://www.worldipv6launch.org/>
- World IPv6 Launch in Japan  
- <http://www.attn.jp/worldipv6launch/>

The precondition for network operators is enabling IPv6 by default for new subscribers, as well as enabling at least 1% of users to actually access content sites using IPv6. IPv6 enabled by default means making it possible for users to gain IPv6 connectivity without requiring any special configuration for IPv6 support. There are plans to measure whether at least 1% of users can actually access content sites via IPv6 with the help of well-known content providers participating in the event as website operators.

The precondition for home router vendors is IPv6 enabled by default for their main consumer-oriented products, including low-cost models. This is designed to enable users to have IPv6-compatible Internet connectivity without the need for special configuration. To verify that these home router products have the necessary functions they are required to pass an IPv6 Ready CE Router interconnectivity test scenario.

The precondition for website operators is permanent support for IPv6 on their main site from June 6. This cannot be achieved by setting up a separate IPv6 website or mirror site. The website service provided to regular users must support IPv6 as-is. As long as users with an IPv6 connection access the site normally, communications should be carried out via IPv6.

Many organizations from around the world have already indicated that they will take part in each category. It appears that IPv6 implementation in user environments is gaining traction, and according to published IPv6 access figures, users that can actually access websites via IPv6 are becoming increasingly common. The IPv6-IPv4 fallback issue has received wide coverage in Japan, and this issue could be resolved cleanly by implementing IPv6 Internet access in user environments as well. To enable users to implement IPv6 connectivity more easily, we will continue to support IPv6 in cooperation with the business operators concerned.



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