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**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Memorandum

Date: ~~OCT 14 2006~~

From: Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology (005)

Subj: Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) Transition (EDMS # 329234)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries and Other Key Officials

1. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has issued a federal agency-wide mandate to transition computer networks to the next generation internet protocol standard, IPv6, by June 2008. At this time, we would like to advise you that points of contacts for the Department's IPv6 transition effort will soon contact your designated IPv6 representative to coordinate information gathering and oversee project management of this initiative.

2. We have started an inventory of the Department's existing routers and switches and initiated the process of registering for IPV6 address space on behalf of the agency. Additional tasks will need to be performed such as an inventory and categorization of all information technology hardware equipment and an analysis of the impact of the new standard on commercial off-the-shelf- applications. My office also plans to offer IPv6 training for managers and technical staff to take advantage of the enhanced functionalities of IPv6.

3. The points of contact for the Department's IPv6 transition effort are Mr. Steve Pirzchalski, Telecommunications Manager (273-8079) and Ms. Sally Wallace, ADAS for IT Operations (273-8130). Please provide the following attachments to your representative: OMB Transition Planning for Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) memorandum; updated IPv6 issues paper, and the project schedule and task list. Supplementary information may be found on the VA intranet at: vaww.va.gov/oirm/telecom/IPv6.

4. Thank you for your support and assistance with this effort.



Robert N. McFarland

Attachments

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

M-05-22

August 2, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS

FROM: Karen S. Evans 
Administrator
Office of E-Government and Information Technology

SUBJECT: Transition Planning for Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6)

As I stated in my testimony of June 29, 2005, before the House Committee on Government Reform, we have set June 2008 as the date by which all agencies' infrastructure (network backbones) must be using IPv6 and agency networks must interface with this infrastructure. This memorandum and its attachments provide guidance to the agencies to ensure an orderly and secure transition from Internet Protocol Version 4 (IPv4) to Version 6 (IPv6). Since the Internet Protocol is core to an agency's IT infrastructure, beginning in February, 2006 OMB will use the Enterprise Architecture Assessment Framework to evaluate agency IPv6 transition planning and progress, IP device inventory completeness, and impact analysis thoroughness.

Recent reports from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) discuss the benefits, complexity, costs, and risks organizations may encounter during the transition to IPv6. Additionally, the Department of Homeland Security's US-CERT has recently issued an advisory of security issues concerning IPv6. You should review these reports and the advisory to familiarize yourselves with the transition issues and ensure that risks are appropriately mitigated during your transition so the benefits are fully realized.¹

What must agencies do and by when?

Following the guidance in the attachments to this memorandum, agencies must take the following actions by:

November 15, 2005

- Assign an official to lead and coordinate agency planning,
- Complete an inventory of existing routers, switches, and hardware firewalls (see Attachment A for details);

¹ References may be found at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05471.pdf>, and <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/ntiageneral/ipv6/>. The IPv6 vulnerability advisory from US-CERT was distributed via the Federal CIO Council and Small Agency Council list on April 5, 2005 and may be obtained from the secure US-CERT Portal.

- Begin an inventory of all other existing IP compliant devices and technologies not captured in the first inventory (see Attachment A for details); and
- Begin impact analysis to determine fiscal and operational impacts and risks of migrating to IPv6 (see Attachment B for details).

February 2006

- Using the guidance issued by Chief Information Officers Council Architecture and Infrastructure Committee (see below), address each of the elements in Attachment C in your agency's IPv6 transition plan and provide the completed IPv6 transition plan as part of the agency's Enterprise Architecture (EA) submission to OMB. Additional guidance on your agency's EA submission will be forthcoming.
- Provide a progress report on the inventory and impact analysis, as part of the agency's Enterprise Architecture (EA) submission to OMB. Additional guidance on your agency's EA submission will be forthcoming.

June 30, 2006

- Complete inventory of existing IP compliant devices and technologies not captured in first inventory, and
- Complete impact analysis of fiscal and operational impacts and risks.

June 30, 2008

- All agency infrastructures (network backbones) must be using IPv6² and agency networks must interface with this infrastructure. Agencies will include progress reports on meeting this target date as part of their EA transition strategy.

Selecting Products and Capabilities

To avoid unnecessary costs in the future, you should, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that all new IT procurements are IPv6 compliant. Any exceptions to the use of IPv6 require the agency's CIO to give advance, written approval. An IPv6 compliant product or system must be able to receive, process, and transmit or forward (as appropriate) IPv6 packets and should interoperate with other systems and protocols in both IPv4 and IPv6 modes of operation. Specifically, any new IP product or system developed, acquired, or produced must:

- Interoperate with both IPv6 and IPv4 systems and products,
- If not initially compliant, provide a migration path and commitment to upgrade to IPv6 for all application and product features by June 2008, and
- Have available contractor/vendor IPv6 technical support for development and implementation and fielded product management.

² Meaning the network backbone is either operating a dual stack network core or it is operating in a pure IPv6 mode, i.e., IPv6-compliant and configured to carry operational IPv6 traffic.

The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) will develop, as necessary, a standard to address IPv6 compliance for the Federal government. Additionally, as necessary, the General Services Administration and the Federal Acquisition Regulation Council will develop a suitable FAR amendment for use by all agencies.

Additional Guidance

The Chief Information Officers Council Architecture and Infrastructure Committee will develop additional IPv6 transition guidance for the agencies. The Committee anticipates completing this guidance by November 15, 2005, and will address each of the elements identified in Attachment C.

If you have questions regarding Attachment C, please contact Richard Burk at 202-395-0379. For questions on Attachments A and B, please contact Lewis Oleinick at 202-395-7188 or oleinick@omb.eop.gov.

Attachments

Attachment A: Agency IPv6 Inventory Guidance

Agencies must first conduct an inventory of existing IP-aware switches, routers, and hardware firewalls. The inventory should be conducted per "investment" as defined in OMB Circular A-11, section 53. This first inventory must be reported to OMB no later than November 15, 2005.

Agencies also must provide a second inventory of all IP compliant devices and technologies not captured by the first inventory. Agencies will provide a progress report as part of their February 2006 EA submission to OMB and as otherwise requested. This inventory must be completed and reported to OMB no later than June 30, 2006.

Both inventories should include the following data elements for each device/technology:

| IPv6 Transition Checklist | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Investment (Name) | | | |
| Investment Name: | | Investment BY06 UPI: | |
| Agency: | | Sub-Agency: | |
| Program Manager: | | Phone: | |
| | | Email: | |
| Prime Support Contractor: | | | |
| 2. Investment Information | | | |
| a. Investment Description: | | | |
| Number of Distinct Types of Applications/Devices: | Percent of Applications/Devices IPv6 Compliant: | Number of Distributed Sites Associated with this Investment | |
| 3. Identify Applications or Devices used within this investment. (Add more lines as required; see Type Code legend below). Additional details are required for complete inventory at the bottom of this report. | | | |
| Application/Device Name (Acronym) | Purpose | Type | Manufacturer/Vendor Name |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Type Code Legend:
G = Government Off-the-Shelf **C** = Commercial Off-the-Shelf **MC** = COTS Modified by Government Contract but still available to the public.
S = Shareware **F** = Freeware
RT = Router Device **FD** = Firewall Device **SW** = Switch Device
AD = Authentication Device **OD** = Other Device **VD** = VPN/Remote Access Device available to the public.
HD = Host Device **CD** = Client Device

4. Identify Applications or Devices that are not IPv6 compliant

| Application/Device Name (Acronym) | Describe dependence on IPv4 | Impact (see Legend) | IPv6 Compliant Date |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Impact Code Legend:
Legacy = App/Device will be replaced before 2008 and will not transition. **Mod** = Will be modified by date identified.
Upgrade = New IPv6 compliant version will be implemented by date identified. **Waiver** = Waiver will be submitted per guidance in Transition Plan.

5. Identify reliance on IPv4:

| | |
|--|--|
| a. Define how IPv4 is implemented preventing IPv6 capability: (Database fields; hard-coded addressing; proprietary protocol implementation; IPv4 loopback addresses; reliance on non-IPv6 OS, COTS, or GOTS) | |
| b. Identify the amount of IPv4 address space used by the investment in terms of approximate CIDR address blocks, e.g. /20, /24, etc. | |

6. Technical impact of transition to IPv6:

| | |
|--|--|
| a. Describe what needs to be done to achieve initial dual stack capability and/or full transition to IPv6. | |
| b. Describe IPv6 characteristics that will or should be leveraged as part of the system's architecture (i.e. stacked headers, site/link local addressing, mobile IPv6, IPSec, unicast/multicast/anycast, stateless autoconfiguration). | |

7. Dependencies:

| | |
|--|--|
| a. Describe technical dependencies that will impact the IPv6 implementation, i.e. processor or memory constraints, APIs, etc. | |
| b. Describe logistical dependencies external to your system, i.e. interrelated programs (C2PC, TDN, etc.) <u>Upper Layer Protocols and applications.</u> | |

8. Programmatic impact(s):

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>a. Schedule for systems to be dual-stack and full IPv6 compliant using current Development Schedule. Include deployment, fielding, upgrade, and retrofit milestones.</p> | |
| <p>(1) Cost schedule – list currently budgeted, such as for tech refresh or upgrade, and additional funding required (deficiency) for each FY to achieve initial and objective IPv6 capabilities in 8a. EXAMPLE: FY07 \$20K(\$5K), FY08 \$8K(\$0)</p> | |
| <p>b. Accelerated schedule for systems to be dual-stack and full IPv6 compliant if current Development Schedule does not meet the goal of IPv6 compliant by 2008. Include deployment, fielding, upgrade, and retrofit milestones.</p> | |
| <p>(1) Cost schedule – list currently budgeted, such as for tech refresh or upgrade, and additional funding required (deficiency) for each FY to achieve initial and objective IPv6 capabilities in 8b. EXAMPLE: FY07 \$20K(\$5K), FY08 \$8K(\$0)</p> | |
| <p>9. Define technical and programmatic risks.</p> | |
| | |
| <p>10. Define Risk Mitigation Strategy for items identified in block 9.</p> | |
| | |
| <p>11. Can this investment or the systems in the investment become a representative "early adopter"? (Yes / No)</p> | |
| <p>12. Recommendations: (Enter any comments or ideas you have that have a bearing on this initiative)</p> | |
| | |

Attachment B: Impact Analysis

By November 15, 2005, begin an impact analysis as described below, report on progress as part of the February 2006 agency EA submission to OMB and as otherwise requested by OMB. The results of this impact analysis must be reported to OMB no later than June 30, 2006 and must include both cost and risk elements as described in OMB Circular A-11.

Cost estimate should include:

1. Planning
2. Infrastructure Acquisition (above and beyond normal expenditures)
3. Training
4. Risk mitigation cost

Risk Analysis should consider:

1. Schedule
2. Technical obsolescence
3. Feasibility
4. Reliability of systems
5. Dependencies and interoperability issues
6. Surety (asset protection) considerations
7. Risk of creating a monopoly for future procurements
8. Capability of agency to manage the investment
9. Overall risk of investment failure
10. Organizational and change management
11. Business
12. Data/info
13. Technology
14. Strategic
15. Security
16. Privacy
17. Project resources
18. Human capital

Attachment C: Transition Activities (Notional Summary of CIO Council Guidance)

The CIO Council will develop additional transition guidance as necessary covering the following actions. To the extent agencies can address these actions now, they should do so. Beginning February 2006, agencies' transition activity will be evaluated using OMB's Enterprise Architecture Assessment Framework:

- Conduct a requirements analysis to identify current scope of IPv6 within an agency, current challenges using IPv4, and target requirements.
- Develop a sequencing plan for IPv6 implementation, integrated with your agency Enterprise Architecture.
- Develop IPv6-related policies and enforcement mechanisms.
- Develop training material for stakeholders.
- Develop and implement a test plan for IPv6 compatibility/interoperability.
- Deploy IPv6 using a phased approach.
- Maintain and monitor networks.
- Update IPv6 requirements and target architecture on an ongoing basis.

IPv6 Issue Paper

Statement of the Issue: On June 29, 2005 OMB issued a draft policy for comments entitled "*Transition Planning for Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6)*". Most noteworthy in this draft policy is the statement, "*By June 2008, all agencies' infrastructures (network backbones) must be using IPv6 and agency networks must interface with this infrastructure.*" VA compliance with this policy presents management, technical, and budgetary challenges.

Background Information: The current standard Network Protocol is Internet Protocol Version 4 (IPv4). IPv4 has been in use throughout the Wide Area Network (Internet) worldwide since 1983 and internal to VA's backbone network and local area networks since the mid 1990's. IPv4 allows for unique identification and addressability of every computing device that is attached to any network. This includes every Mainframe, Server, PC, laptop PC, thin client, printer, scanner, copier, medical device, telephone, hand-held diagnostic device, wireless devices, and embedded chips. It is ubiquitous. Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) has been under development since 1991. It has been developed in response to the perceived need for a huge increase in the number of addresses required to support the future growth of the Internet. IPv4 uses a 32 bit addressing scheme in the familiar form of (100.152.161.019) that results in 2^{32} or 4.2 billion addresses. IPv6 uses a 128 bit addressing scheme that results in 2^{128} or 340 trillion, trillion, trillion addresses.

Management Challenges: The draft policy calls for the VA to complete by November 15, 2005 an inventory of devices that constitute the core network backbone. An inventory of all information technology devices that attach to the VA core backbone must be completed by June 15, 2006. VA does not currently have any reliable inventory of IP addressable devices within the enterprise. Given our current IT workload, we do not have the internal resources to accomplish an enterprise wide inventory capture without adversely impacting projects such as TMP Phase 4, COOP based data center relocations, and exchange consolidation. In addition the draft policy calls for "*an impact analysis to determine fiscal and operational impacts and risks of migrating to IPv6*" to be completed within the same (6/15/06) timeframe. This requirement too suffers from the same staffing constraint and funding limitations as the IP device inventory task. Beyond the challenge of simply identifying the scope of the agenda and setting forth a strategy there stands the very real challenge of replacing significant amounts of hardware and software, ensuring both old and new applications will operate in an IPV6 environment and accomplishing this transition by June 15, 2008.

Technical Challenges: While many of our vendors tell us that their hardware devices and the newest versions of their commercial off the shelf software that we have been acquiring the last several years are "*IPv6 compliant or capable*" this is an untested assertion. Capturing and analyzing the VA inventory of networking

devices, servers, desktops and applications presents the VA with a major logistical and analytical challenge. Two potentially larger technical challenges for VA however are the preponderance of proprietary legacy software in use enterprise wide and the large but unknown number of hardware devices that are not "IPv6 compliant or capable". The degree to which IPv4 addresses have been "hard-coded" into application layer software is also unknown but believed to be significant. This challenge will require extensive analysis and potentially significant recoding efforts. Further it is widely acknowledged that any solution will require running a "dual-stack", that is both protocols simultaneously, for an extended period of time and the difficulty and impact of maintaining a dual-stack at this level of complexity is largely unknown.

Budgetary Challenges: The Office of Information Technology Operations has projected the VA will need to spend \$28 million in FY 2006, \$88 million in FY 2007 and \$90 million in FY 2008 to plan for and to transition its computing infrastructure to IPV6 in accordance with the timetable mandated by OMB. This is an initial estimate which is expected to be refined in the course of the preparation of the impact analysis to be submitted to OMB June 15, 2006. The challenge nonetheless lies in the fact that the VA's IT budgetary formulation for FY06 and FY07 do not contain any business case analysis justifications, either within existing Exhibit 300's or in a separate Exhibit 300 specific to IPV6 transition. Given that significant analysis and planning will have to be accomplished in FY06 and an undetermined amount of acquisition of critical IPV6-enabled hardware and software will need to be procured in FY2007 to enable the VA to meet the June 2008 deadline, potentially significant FY06 and FY07 dollar amounts may have to be diverted from existing approved programs and repurposed for IPV6 conversion.

Recommendations: While the challenges and costs to VA may be substantial and the immediate benefits to VA small this issue must be viewed in the wider government context. It appears that this issue has been identified by this Administration as an economic and leadership priority. Potentially the ability of U.S. businesses to continue to leverage the Internet to sustain technological excellence and economic growth could be put at risk without rapid, universal adoption of IPV6. While the deadlines are very difficult, the funding problematic, and the level of effort required challenging the outcome is ultimately worthwhile and our recommendation is that we take whatever steps are necessary to insure that we fully support and comply with this policy initiative.

**Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
IPV6 Transition Schedule**

| Milestone Date | Task | Organization |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| 10/15/05 | Complete an inventory of the agency's existing network backbone routers, switches and hardware firewalls. Categorize this inventory by OMB Exhibit 300 investment. | Office of Information & Technology |
| | Initiate an inventory of the agency's IP-enabled devices including desktop computers, servers, local area network (LAN) switches and routers, other devices connected to agency LANS | Office of Information & Technology; Administrations |
| | Initiate business analysis to determine fiscal and operational impact of IPV6 transition. | Office of Information & Technology; Administrations |
| 2/1/06 | Initiate an IPV6 transition plan. | Office of Information & Technology; Administrations |
| | Provide OMB an interim progress report on IP inventory and impact analysis. | Office of Information & Technology |
| 6/30/06 | Provide OMB the final report regarding IP inventory and impact analysis. | Office of Information & Technology |
| 8/1/08 | Notify OMB that the agency's network infrastructure is capable of routing IPV6 packets. | Office of Information Technology |