

Joint Declaration on Cooperation and Support for the Expansion of the IPv6 Protocol in the Czech Republic

Parties:

1. The Ministry of Industry and Trade, ID No. 47609109, Na Františku 32, Prague, represented by Ing. Jozef Síkela, Minister of Industry and Trade,
 2. Czech Telecommunication Office, ID No. 70106975, Sokolovská 219, Prague, represented by Ing. Marek Ebert, Chairman of the Council of the Czech Telecommunication Office,
 3. Digital and Information Agency, ID No. 17651921, Na Vápence 915/14, 130 00 Prague, represented by Ing. Martin Mesršmíd, director,
 4. The Ministry of the Interior, Nad Štolou 3, Prague, ID No. 00007064, represented by Ing. Tomáš Hrubý, Senior Director of the Information Technology Section,
 5. CZ.NIC, z. s. p. o., an association, ID No. 67985726, Milešovská 1136/5, Prague, represented by Mgr. Ondřej Filip, MBA, general manager,
 6. NIX.CZ, z. s. p. o., an association, ID No. 65990471, Milešovská 1136/5, Prague, represented by Adam Golecký, general manager,
 7. CESNET, an interest association of legal entities, ID No. 63839172, Generála Píky 430/26, Prague, represented by Ing. Jakub Papírník, director,
 8. Independent ICT Industry Committee, z. s., ID No. 04731123, Vrátkov 116, Český Brod, represented by Bc. Jakub Rejzek, MBA, LL.M., president,
 9. Association of Mobile Network Operators, ID No. 75118891, Karlovo náměstí 317/5, 128 00 Prague, represented by Jiří Grund, president.
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I. Preamble

The parties to this Joint Declaration express their mutual agreement to cooperate in supporting the implementation and expansion of Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) in the Czech Republic in order to fulfil the Czech Government Resolution No. 49 of 17 January 2024 on the restart of DNSSEC technology and IPv6 protocol deployment in the state administration, whereby the Government set the date of 6 June 2032 as the deadline for the provision of “IPv6-only” state administration services. The parties are aware of the importance and benefits of this milestone for the development of the Czech digital infrastructure and the security of the Internet as a key digital infrastructure. The shortage of available IPv4 addresses poses a significant challenge not only for the digital sector. This situation can only be satisfactorily resolved by a full transition of the Internet infrastructure to the general support of IPv6 addressing.

II. Reasons for IPv6 Protocol Support

1. **Address space expansion.** IPv6 is the solution to the shortage of IP addresses available in IPv4, which is crucial, for example, for the development of the Internet of Things (IoT) and the continuing digitalization of society.

IPv4 uses 32-bit addresses, allowing a maximum of 4.3 billion addresses. IPv6 uses 128-bit addresses, allowing up to 340 sextillion addresses in theory.

2. **Lowering the barrier to market entry.** The lack of IP addresses increases the barrier to entry into the market for the provision of digital services in particular (and not only), reduces the competitiveness of the Czech Republic and limits the development of the Czech economy. Full IPv6 support across the digital ecosystem will lower the barrier to entry.
3. **Improving security.** IPv6 was designed with better security in mind, including better support for encryption and protocol-level authentication. The widespread use of addressing targets and resources in the digital world using IPv6 also increases the resilience of digital networks in the Czech Republic.
4. **Mobile device support.** IPv6 brings better support for mobile devices. With the increasing number of devices connected to the Internet, it is important to use a protocol that can effectively support dynamic changes in network connectivity.
5. **Global reach.** IPv6 offers global reach without the need for Network Address Translation (NAT), simplifying communication and interoperability between different devices and services.
6. **Internet of things.** IPv6 is a suitable protocol to support large and heterogeneous IoT networks, enabling better scalability, security and efficiency.

III. Voluntary Activities of Parties

1. **Association of Operators**, namely the Independent ICT Industry Committee z.s. and the Association of Mobile Network Operators (or other affiliated operator associations), will promote and support IPv6 implementations among their members and provide technical and professional support.
2. **CZ.NIC Association** will continue to develop tools and services to support IPv6 operation and monitoring, as well as educational activities for the public and professionals.
3. **NIX.CZ Association** will arrange for the support and development of infrastructure to enable the effective use of IPv6 in a neutral interconnect node environment.
4. **Czech Telecommunication Office** will cooperate in the deployment of IPv6 and DNSSEC technologies and support related activities, including self-regulatory mechanisms.
5. **The Ministry of Industry and Trade** will oversee the implementation of IPv6 in accordance with the Government's Resolution No. 49 of 17 January 2024 on the restart of DNSSEC and IPv6 deployment in the public administration.
6. **The Digital and Information Agency and the Ministry of the Interior** will support and oversee the implementation of IPv6 in government. They will also provide training to their staff involved in IPv6 implementation to ensure that the implementation of IPv6 meets all relevant standards.
7. **CESNET Association** will promote the development and implementation of IPv6, including through its research and development activities.

IV. Evaluation

The transition to IPv6 is not only inevitable but is also a step forward towards a more robust, secure and efficient future for the Internet. This Joint Declaration provides a framework for joint efforts and coordinated cooperation in the promotion (e.g. through activities during World IPv6 Day) and implementation of IPv6 in the Czech Republic. At the request of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the parties will conduct regular annual reviews and updates of their activities and strategies in order to maximally support the transition to IPv6.

V. Conclusion

1. Each party will bear its own costs associated with activities under this Declaration.
2. This Declaration imposes no legal obligations upon the parties except as set out in this Declaration, nor are the parties required to enter into future contracts, whether for cooperation under this Declaration or any other.
3. This Declaration may be acceded to by other parties if all existing parties to the Declaration consent in writing.
4. This Declaration will take effect on the date of its signature by representatives of all parties.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade

30 August 2024 15:54:14

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Bears time stamp

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